



Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Edition

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July 11, 1997



Bishop Dan E. Solomon

Being and Doing

"New Christians Are Our Priority"

Jesus said, "Go make disciples." The 1996 General Conference said the mission of United Methodism is "to make disciples for Jesus Christ." John Wesley said, "Gaining knowledge is a good thing; saving souls is better." For Christians who are United Methodists, bringing persons into a new, transforming relationship with Jesus Christ is our priority.

We must do ministry for Christ and with Christ in a variety of ways. We must feed the hungry and clothe the naked. We must care for the stranger and the prisoner. All of these we do in Jesus' name, but none of these we do to the neglect of our principal priority of helping persons into new and life-changing encounters with the living Christ. Let us make the main thing the main thing!

Each pastor is being asked to report quarterly in behalf of her/his congregation the number of professions of faith by youth, young adults, and adults. The second quarter report for April, May and June is coming in at this time.

It is quite important to note that the pastor is being asked to report the congregation's fruitfulness in making disciples, not simply the pastor's own personal record of evangelism.

Every baptized follower of Jesus is an evangelist. Every member of every congregation is in the ministry of faith-sharing. God's grace is always a "given" reality, it is never a "kept" reality. Try to hoard or contain God's saving grace and one soon discovers a lethargy of spirit that is debilitating. Such is true for people and congregations.

Faith-sharing possibilities abound for all of us. The laity of the Louisiana

Conference every day are in multitudes of settings where the real need of those around us is a faith need, a hope need, a grace need, a spiritual power need. Likewise, clergy have so many open doors to raise the faith question, to inquire as to the state of another's soul, to point to the way forward that God opens. In our congregational life, we share the faith by the way we welcome others, hold up worthy expectations for maturing in the faith, and involve others in the fellowship and service ministries of the congregation.

Faith-sharing is not only a daily possibility, it is also a daily privilege. Can we think of anything more thrilling than helping another person connect with the love of Jesus for them and experience the joy of a daily walk with God? Could we ever give our children, or even a friend or new acquaintance anything more special and priceless than the gift of linking them with the living Lord?

Consider the legacy that we might leave for our years of life on this earth. Some persons leave their resources to endow institutions. Others leave the fruits of scientific research or the results of distinguished careers in literature, engineering, or education. No legacy could be more treasured and more triumphant than to have helped another person to know in a life-changing way the presence in their life of God's saving power.

At our recent Annual Conference, a new Christian and also a new member of United Methodism each gave their witness. Their comments were warm, powerful, filled with thankfulness, and reflected an eagerness to move forward in their spiritual journey. They were only two of the several thousand new Christians received last year into the Louisiana Conference, but they gave us all a vital witness to the importance of our doing what Christ asked us to do—go make disciples.

We have many special events in our congregations. What celebration are we now planning in order to praise God for new Christians in our congregation? When we keep the main thing the main thing there is reason for special celebration.

E. Solomon



"Children In Need" Called Session to be Held in October

On October 4, 1997, a special Called Session of the 1997 Annual Conference will address the Bishop's Initiative on Children in Need in Louisiana, the nation and the world. This event will be held at Louisiana College in Pineville from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Everyone is invited and urged to attend, not just the delegates," says Joanne White, chair of the Louisiana Conference Task Force for Children in Need. "This initiative will be a viable option for most churches outreach focus and we want as many people as possible to get this information."

The session will feature 26 workshops (see complete list on page 4) and a worship service conducted entirely by children including an orchestra, choir, liturgical dancing and an 18-banner presentation on the theme, "Let the children come unto me" (Mark 10:14).

To register for the session or to receive more information, contact the Shreveport District Superintendent's office (Rev. Bobby Potter) at (318) 869-4568.

Whose children are these? Christ's children and in every child the world over we see both Christ's child and the Christ child; a child made in the image of God, a child for whom Christ died and in whom Christ is present. In the scars and stripes, the suffering and sorrow of every child, we see the wounds, tears and anguish of Jesus Christ—and our covenant commitment becomes personalized and clear.

From a statement issued by the Task Force for Children in Need



Send An Emergency Relief Box to North Korea

UMCOR Guidelines for Packing and Shipping

One of the initiatives of the Louisiana Conference is to send emergency relief boxes to people in Korea who are suffering and dying from starvation.

One hundred relief boxes were made up at the Annual Conference. Since then, churches all over the state have taken up the cause and are putting together hundreds more.

Filled boxes are forwarded to the UMCOR depot in Baldwin for distribution. Each box feeds a five-member family for one week.

Following are directions for assembling Korean Food Kits in a 1.5 cubic foot box (12"x12"x12") with some important pointers from UMCOR:

- 1) Place a 20 lb. bag of rice on the bottom of the

box. **Make sure it is medium or long grain, not instant or minute rice.**

- 2) Stand up a box of powdered milk (4-5 pound) on one side of the box.

- 3) Place a can (4 pound) of lard or shortening in the box. **Be sure to wrap it in plastic and then newspaper so if it leaks it will not ruin other items.**

- 4) Add cans (4 lbs.) of meat (chicken, ham, tuna, turkey, sardines) to box.

- 5) Tape solid chocolate candy bars (1 pound.—**no cooking chocolate or nuts**) together and place in box.

- 6) Add a new comb and brush set.

- 7) Wrap in newspaper and tape securely a small hand-held garden rake and trowel. The handle should not exceed 6".

- 8) Write a note (in Korean if possible) that says "In Christ's love we send this gift from the Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church," and include it in the box.

- 9) **Tape the box securely with strong tape.**

- 10) Label box: "NORTH KOREA EMERGENCY."

- 11) Send \$20 per box through your local church for Advance Code #226435-0 "North Korea Emergency" to cover shipping. **DO NOT PUT THE MONEY INSIDE THE BOX.**

UMCOR stresses the importance of wrapping everything in newspaper and continue to fill the box with wadded up newspaper until the box will not give when you stand on it.

Supplies sent are strictly regulated by the United States government. Do not include any items not on the above list or use a box other than the size suggested.

BULK RICE SHIPMENTS

Shipments of bulk rice (3,000 tons) are also being sent by UMCOR

along with the relief boxes.

Twenty-five cents will purchase one pound of bulk rice. If you would like to contribute, send a check with Advance Code

#226435-0: North Korea Emergency written on it to:

Advance GCFA

P.O. Box 9068

New York, NY 10087.



Setting the Shoe Straight

Everything You Need to Know About Tennis Shoe Collections

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Thousands of pairs of tennis shoes are needed for the Louisiana Conference's "Children in Need" initiative to collect tennis shoes for children in Africa. (Please see story, page 1, July *NetWorker*.)

Following are some important points to remember as your church initiates its collection campaign:

Tennis shoes MUST BE NEW! UMCOR cannot ship used shoes out of the country.

Tie or affix the shoes together.

Mark L or R and the size on the bottom of the shoe.

All sizes are needed—toddlers to men/women's size

9.

When you bring the collected shoes to the "Children in Need" Called Session of the Annual Conference in Pineville on October 4, please remember to:

Keep an accurate count of how many pairs of shoes you are bringing.

Keep one pair of tennis shoes for each person attending the session to bring to the altar during an Offering Ceremony.

Load the remainder of the shoes onto the truck which will be provided.

Contact Rev. Jimmie Pyles, Ruston District superintendent, if you have any questions at (318) 251-2690.

Clarification

In the June 27 Review, the caption on the photo below identified those pictured as Diaconal Ministers. Nine of the ministers pictured (from left) were ordained to the Permanent Order of Deacons.



Annual Conference Supports Ministerial Education Fund

In 1996, the Louisiana Annual Conference gave \$251,800 to the Ministerial Education Fund of The United Methodist Church. This amount represents 88 percent of the Conference's share of the General Church apportionment and is \$6,000 more than the Conference's 1995 contribution to the Education Fund.

What do these dollars do? This faithful and generous support nurtures 13 UMC seminaries, more than 2,000 UM seminary students, the 3,000 local pastors in the Course of Study programs, the continuing education of thousands of UM pastors and the recruitment of men and women for the future leadership of The United Methodist Church.

MacDonell Children's Services Announces VP

Houma, LA--MacDonell United Methodist Children's Services, Inc., has named Pamela L. Hoffpauir as vice president of Resource Development.

Hoffpauir was formerly director of development at Boys and Girls Villages Foundation in Lake Charles.

MacDonell United Methodist Children's Services, Inc. is a non-profit residential care facility for school-age children who are unable to live with their natural families.

Dillard Hosts Summer Arts Institute for Youth

"Drawing from Our Past to Shape Our Future" is the theme of a six-week Summer Arts Institute sponsored by The Civic Light Opera Association of New Orleans in cooperation with Dillard University.

Nearly 100 students ranging from 10-15 years in age are enrolled in the day camp which features instruction in drama, dance, music, and visual arts by teachers from public and parochial schools in New Orleans.

It is free of charge to all participants and will culminate with a production by the students on Friday, July 19. Call (504) 286-4744 for details.



Annual Conference Dissolves Council on Ministries

Ministry Teams Structure Begins

by Bobbie Armstrong,
Review Editor

"The old things are passed away; behold, they are become new" (2 Cor.:5:17) St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians about Christianity and its new path of progress. We of the Louisiana Conference are about to experience Paul's promise of transformation first hand.

At the Annual Conference in June, motions by the Quality Discernment Team to discontinue the Conference and District Council on Ministries were approved. With the assistance of the Conference Transition Team, the process of creating a new structure of Conference and nine District Ministry Teams to replace the existing Councils on Ministries has begun. On December 31, 1997, the Council on Ministries will dissolve and, by Annual Conference of 2000, the transition to the Ministry Teams will be complete.

In the new structure, there will be one District Ministry Team per



district which will work with local congregations, as desired, one church at a time to assist in the development of that church's ministry. A resource bank will be established to provide material and human resources as needed by local churches. A Conference Ministry Team will 1) provide services that cannot be obtained by the local church or district, 2) facilitate communication and 3) keep the vision and mission of the Conference

before the Conference.

The District Ministry Team will include: the District Superintendent, a District Missioner, an Education Leader, a

Renewal Ministries Leader, a Spiritual Development Leader, an Evangelism and Mission Leader, a District Lay Leader, a Communication Advisor, a youth, and one representative from the District Board of Trustees, District Council on Finance and Administration, and Values Team.

The Conference Ministry Team will consist of: the Bishop, all District Superintendents, all District Lay Leaders, a Conference Lay Leader, Chairperson of the Conference Quality Discernment Team, the Executive Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer, the Area Director of Gospel Communications, a Special Ministries Coordinator, a Youth Coordinator, a youth and one representative from the Board of Ordained Ministries, the Council on Finance and Administration and the United Methodist Foundation.

Conference Planned in Dallas to Explore Ministry

Do you know someone with the "gift and graces for pastoral leadership" who has resisted that calling or doesn't know he/she has it? Tell him/her about an upcoming Ministerial Recruitment Event in Dallas called "Exploring Ministry."

The two-day event will be held September 26 and 27, 1997, at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas and is jointly sponsored by the Louisiana, North Texas and Central Texas Conferences. Registration is open to anyone over the age of 25 (and spouses) who has an interest in pursuing the ministry.

In small group discussions, prospective ministers will explore the topics: "Am I Called?," "How Is God Moving in My Life?" and "Am I Being Called to Vocational Ministry?"

Workshops will examine "Preparation and Educational Requirements/Possibilities," "Finances and Financial Aid Options," "Family Issues: Itinerancy; Kids; I Didn't Marry a Minister," and "Spouses: What's Expected of Me?"

Contact Rev. Danny Gleason (Lake Charles District), chair of the Louisiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Enlistment and Recruitment Committee, at (318) 855-6241.

IN MEMORIAM

Our prayers go to Mrs. Adelaide Frazier, wife of Rev. Clyde Frazier, retired, Rayne Memorial, whose only brother, Dr. Stuart Henry, died June 28.

Dr. Henry taught for years at Duke Divinity School.

Services were held Tuesday, July 1 at Duke Chapel. The family asks that any memorials may be designated for a Duke Divinity School scholarship in Dr. Henry's name.

Fall Visit With Bishop Solomon and Joy

Planned For Retired Clergy at Conference Center



If you are a retired clergy, spouse of a retired clergy or surviving spouse of a clergy, you will want to put on your personal calendar the dates: Sunday, November 16 from 4 p.m. through Monday, November 17 at 4 p.m.

The Conference Board of Pensions is sponsoring a two day visit with Bishop and Joy Solomon at the Louisiana Conference Center. The Board will assist in the overall cost of the event.

Lodging at the Center will be available on a first come, first served basis, so make plans early.

In the near future, a brochure containing applications for reservations will be mailed. Call Dr. Stone Caraway at the Conference office- (504) 346-1646- after July 31 if you need further information.

Conference Seeking Part-time Youth Director

"CeeCee" Carolyn Ross, Conference youth director, is leaving us in August to become a full-time special education teacher in East Baton Rouge Parish. CeeCee has been a great asset to the Conference and we will greatly miss her wonderful spirit.

Her departure creates

a vacancy for the position of youth director, which, under the new structure has become part-time.

If you live in Baton Rouge and have experience working with youth on a local or district level, you might be the right person for the job. It is a part-time position

and a college degree is required.

Please send all inquiries and resumes to Leslie Akin, Director, Gospel Communications, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or fax to (504) 383-2652.





AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Events

St. John's Seeking Music Director

St. John's United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge is seeking a part-time music director. Send resume by July 31 to: Search Committee, 9375 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

Special Called Session of the Annual Conference "Children in Need"

October 4, 1997

Louisiana College, Pineville, LA

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WORKSHOPS

- 1) Connecting With Children Around the World
Bishop Dan and Joy Solomon
- 2) Ministries with the Disabled Child
- 3) The Church's Response to Children Facing the Risks of Addictions (Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol, Gambling)
- 4) Ministries with Troubled and Incarcerated Children
- 5) Pastoral Care in the Adoption Journey--So You Want to Adopt--Network for Adoption
- 6) Ministering with Abused and Neglected Children/Foster Care
- 7) Creativity with Art that Creates Healing and Growth--A New Curriculum Approach
- 8) Life Skills, Social Skills, Communication Skills for Healing and Growth--A Community Outreach Plan
- 9) Making Disciples of Children
- 10) The Media, Children and the Church

Children and Poverty and the Church

- 11) Local Church Initiatives through Comprehensive and Direct Services
- 12) Christmas Ministries--No Child Left Out
- 13) Congregations: Here's How Regarding Housing
- 14) Compassionate Congregations and the Special Learning Needs of Disadvantaged Children
- 15) Building Strong Families

Child Care Issues

- 16) So Your Congregation Wants to Begin a Preschool
- 17) Enhancing Your Church's Preschool
- 18) Tutorial Programs--A Connection for All Ages
- 19) Organized Recreation Programs--Affirming and Developing Children
- 20) Special Needs of the Urban Child and the Church's Response
- 21) Special Needs of the Rural Child and the Church's Response
- 22) Congregations Discerning Community's Needs and Organizing Ministry
- 23) Health Issues of Children and the Role of the Church
- 24) Special Needs of Atypical and Gifted Children and the Role of the Church
- 25) Camping Options/Leisure Activities for Children
- 26) Counseling Terminally Ill Children
- 27) So You Want to Start a Scout Troop

Bishop's Guidelines for Called Session Attendance

Church size:

1 to 99 at least 5 attend	700 to 999 at least 18 attend
100 to 299 at least 8 attend	1000 to 1499 at least 21 attend
300 to 499 at least 12 attend	1500 to 1999 at least 25 attend
500 to 699 at least 15 attend	2000 + at least 30 attend

Wesley UMC to Host Student Workshop

On August 11 and 12, Wesley United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge will host a free workshop entitled "How to Survive at School" for students entering grades 6-12. Hours: 9 a.m. to noon. Call (504) 343-8421 for details or to register.



New Orleans District Celebrates Heritage Festival '97

In the spring, the New Orleans District celebrated its annual Heritage Festival at First UMC of New Orleans. This year's theme was "Offer Them Christ" and proceeds went to the Daughenbaugh-Matheny Scholarship fund for students to attend Centenary College or Dillard University.

Phil Preis, keynote speaker, and New Orleans District Superintendent Dr. Carole Cotton-Winn (photo left) led a banner procession featuring banners from 25 churches. Connie Breaux-Diallo (photo right), diaconal minister, led the congregation in Wesleyan hymns.

Alexandria First Church Observes Sesquicentennial

First United Methodist Church of Alexandria is celebrating its 150th anniversary with an ongoing sesquicentennial observance which will culminate on Sunday, October 5, 1997.

For further details, please contact Dr. C. Gerald Richardson, senior pastor, at (318) 443-5696.

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United Methodist Review
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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July 25 issue - July 14
August 8 issue - July 25

Conference Program Calendar

July 1997

- 11 Bishop Joseph Ajay from Nigeria, Guest Speaker, DownsvilleUMC, 6:30 PM
- 14-17 Ministers Week, Conference Center
- 15-16 UMW Committee Meetings, Shreveport
- 17-20 UMW Conference School of Christian Mission, Centenary College, Shreveport
- 21-26 Christian Community Experience - Caney Lake, Minden, LA
- 23-24 Cabinet Meeting

August 1997

- 1-3 Happening #10, Conference Center
- 22-23 Louisiana Conference Youth Worker Training, Conference Center, Woodworth, LA
- 24 Christian Education Sunday
- 28-30 Disciple Bible Study Training, Baton Rouge, LA
- 30 CCYM Meeting, Conference Center

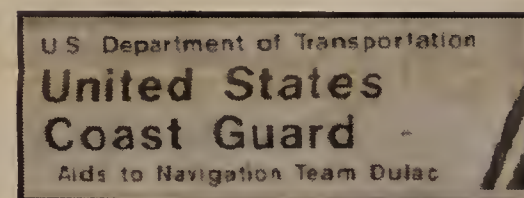
Dulac, LA: Fighting for Sacred Ground



Review staff photos by Bobbie Armstrong



VS



Is This Land for Sale?

by Bobbie Armstrong
Review Editor

Dulac, LA—Standing under massive moss-dripped oak trees, air thick with moisture and mosquitoes after a sudden summer downpour, and surrounded by water which at times appears higher than the shore, this place looks like a land that time forgot. To the Houma Indians, most of them United Methodists, who call this tiny peninsula (pictured above) of Dulac home, this land is sacred ground and they are in mission to protect it.

Situated at the convergence of the Grand Caillou and Dulac Bayous, Dulac is a place of delicate balance. Oil companies and estuaries filled with shrimp and oyster beds, endangered wildlife and modern man, the United States Coast Guard and The United Methodist Church all exist and prosper side by side, like two dancers synchronized in step from years of practicing their nature ballet together. When one changes a step, they both trip and fall.

A light stands ready to be serviced by the ANT station.

though it were a tender child. The U.S. Department of Transportation's U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) station which has stood at the tip of the peninsula for over 30 years may be closing. The land, they fear, will be sold to the highest bidder opening the door to any number of

catastrophic possibilities.

The history of this lush, green soil tip located 20 miles from the Gulf of Mexico is a story of land taken and land given. Over a century ago the Native American Indians of the Houma tribe settled in the area and made a living fishing the waters and hunting the land. In the 1920s, a Methodist school teacher went to the area to teach the children because they were not allowed to attend public schools. When the oil industry began to flourish in the 1940s, many of the Indians in and around the Houma area lost the land they were living on to people who simply moved in and took it over. The teacher, Wilhemina Hooper, headed a successful drive within the Methodist Church to buy the peninsula at Dulac as a place for the displaced Indians to live and worship; it was purchased by the Women's Missionary Society as UMW was then called and became known as Methodist Point.

In 1962, the U.S. Coast Guard decided to open an ANT station (which services buoys and other water-marking devices) there. The church did not want to get rid of this pivotal point of land, however, and the U.S. government took the church to court. The court ruled in favor of the government and the land was taken from the Indians and the Methodist Church for the sum of \$5,350 for 2.75 acres; it became Coast Guard Point. Since that time, the Coast Guard with its three-boat fleet and approximately eight staff members, the 182-member United Methodist Church (called Clanton Chapel), and the 36-family Native American community have co-existed peacefully on the 45-acre peninsula.

Over the years, what has developed at Dulac is a unique Native American community under United Methodist stewardship. The church has been the primary educator and promoter of the people, urging leadership from within the com-

munity and nurturing a people who have been deprived and excluded from society; in turn, the people have given back in willing service and dedication to the church and community. Together, they have fought against alcohol abuse, drug dealers, hurricanes, destroyed sewer systems and other problems.

Perched at the end of the land, the Coast Guard has been



Rev. Kirby Verret (left), pastor of Clanton Chapel, and BMC Michael Silvey (right), officer in charge of the ANT station at Dulac, discuss plans for an upcoming luncheon the church is planning to welcome Silvey to the post he took command of in June.

Continued on page 3.



Bishop Dan E. Solomon



Being and Doing

"Calling The Called"

The "called" are among us! Sometimes "the called" know it. Sometimes others give voice to "the call" that has been seeking a home. "The call" to

which I refer is the call to pastoral ministry.

I am convinced that many of the called have not yet discerned their call or responded to it. Likewise, I am sure that laity and clergy can be the means by which God's call is "voiced" to people of various ages and circumstances in life.

Recently I sent a letter to every pastor and chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee asking them to consider prayerfully those persons over 25 years of age who possess gifts and grace for the pastoral ministry. In my letter I shared information about the forthcoming seminar, "Exploring Ministry" designed especially for persons over 25 years of age to explore the possibility of "a call" to part-time or full-time pastoral ministry. (A similar seminar was held last year for persons below 25 years of age.)

Three particular convictions need to be held before us all—pastors and laity:

The first conviction is "God is still calling persons to the particular work of pastoral ministry." For some that call may be as a preaching pastor. For others it may be as a youth pastor, or a counselling pastor, or an associate pastor. We can be clear that God does the calling. We can also be very aware that any one

of us may be the means by which that call is voiced.

The second conviction is that God expects us to identify and call forth the gifts of others. The illustrations are endless of persons who have entered their present vocation, or left one vocation and entered another because someone said the illuminating and encouraging word to them. How often have we heard, "I never thought about being an artist (or whatever) until (fill in the name of a person) told me I had gifts and encouraged me to develop them." So many persons in life frequently comment, "It's what someone else saw in me that started me thinking or gave me courage to risk, or confirmed what I had been thinking all along, but was reluctant to admit." Every lay and clergy concerned for the future leadership of Louisiana United Methodism has an urgent priority to be a means for calling forth the gifts of persons to be future pastors.

The third conviction is that "the time is now." We cannot delay in voicing the call. The number of pastors retiring and the critical need for quality leadership are pushing us into a time of grave urgency. Only three students from the Louisiana Conference returned from seminary to receive an appointment this June.

We must consider who among our best and brightest youth, young adults, and potential second-career persons have the gifts and grace needed for pastoral ministry. Once we have identified such persons, we must go to them and say, "I don't know whether you've ever thought about this, but I see in you the gifts to become a pastor. I hope you will think and pray about this. If I can help you, please call me. I also will be praying that you will clearly discern God's call for your life, whatever that call may be."

For someone who is struggling to hear God's call, you may be the voice that enables them to hear and respond.

Dan E. Solomon

Bishop's Episcopal Address Available on Video/Cassette Tape

by **Bobbie Armstrong**
Review Editor

"Words are the wings of action," wrote John Caspar Lavater, the eighteenth century Swiss theologian.

Yes...and every once in a while, God's grace sends us someone extraordinary whose gift of words can make us fly. Such is the case with Bishop Dan Solomon's Episcopal Address to the 1997 Louisiana Annual Conference, which was followed by a spontaneous altar call.

This honest, dynamic and inspiring talk will move you into mission and is now available on video and cassette tape. If you missed it live at the Annual Conference, you are in for a blessing. If you experienced it firsthand in the Gold Dome, you'll be blessed again...and again, every time you view or listen to it.

Why not order a tape or video and share this experience with your congregation in a Sunday worship service, Bible study, United Methodist Women or Men's meeting, or have a special service just for the purpose of viewing or

listening to this message? It will unite you with the bishop, with the Conference, and with yourselves into a sense of purpose and direction for your church and its ministry.

that you brought tears to our eyes; tears of sorrow for the way we have handled things in the past and tears of joy for the grace of work that will be done in the future. Someone here remarked that the

work of the Holy Spirit for Jesus has not been evident for years. Bishop Solomon, I know that is not entirely true, but by your leadership, this person has new hope to praise God for the United Methodist Church here in Louisiana. Through God's grace much will be done here in Patterson and throughout Louisiana's Churches history."

Powerful testimony for a powerful experience; this address is not for the faint of heart or spirit. Are you ready?

If so, tapes are available from: Audio Enterprises, Route 1, Box 18EEE, Ames, OK

73718 or call (405) 753-4661. Videos: \$15/Cassettes: \$5. Add \$1 for shipping.

You can also borrow it from the Resource Center if you are a member. Call (504) 346-1646.

Order today and prepare to soar.

*Church, we've gone blind.
We can't see the mission field.
We can't see ourselves
as missionaries...
Let us be bold missionaries
in a suffering society.*

Bishop Dan Solomon
Episcopal Address
1997 Annual Conference

Listen to the testimony of Rev. L. John Locascio, pastor of Patterson United Methodist Church who has shared the video with groups at his church on three occasions and recently wrote in a letter to Bishop Solomon:

"I am not exaggerating when I say

Exploring Ministry

Ministerial Recruitment Event

Conferences of Central Texas, North Texas and Louisiana

September 26-27, 1997

Highland Park United Methodist Church
3300 E. Mockingbird Lane
Dallas, Texas

This event is designed for persons age 25 or over interested in exploring a call to Methodist ministry. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Child care will be available. Registration deadline for child care is September 12. Call (318) 855-6241 to register.

Friday, September 26

5-7 pm	Registration
6	Supper
6:45-7:45	Worship--Relating to One's Call
8-9	Small Group Discussions: Am I Called?
9-9:30	Worship

Saturday, September 27

7:30-8:15 am	Breakfast
8:30-9	Worship
9-9:30	Overview--Options for Ministry
9:45-12:20	Workshops
12:30 pm	Lunch
1-2:00	Worship: An Opportunity to Respond
2-3	Meet/Board of Ministry

Centenary College Offers Continuing Education Fellowship for Ministers

Centenary College of Louisiana, a Methodist college in Shreveport, invites all diaconal and ordained ministers in the Louisiana Conference to participate in a continuing education experience.

Each year Centenary selects two Ministerial Fellows to use its facilities and resources for ongoing study and research. Fellows receive housing, meals, guidance and campus and library privileges at no expense to the Conference or the "Fellow."

The fellows selected spend two weeks in residence on the Centenary campus. Research takes place in two one-week sessions with the guidance of a faculty advisor.

Two units of Continuing Education credit are awarded upon satisfactory completion of the program.

For an application and additional information, contact: Ms. Heather Haussler, Director of Church Relations, Centenary College of Louisiana, P. O. Box 41188, Shreveport, LA 71134-1188 or call her at (318) 869-5108.

Deadline for applications for the 1998-99 school year is September 30, 1997.

**It is by education I learn
to do by choice what
other men do by
the constraint of fear.**

Aristotle

M S C O S Registration Closes August 1

August 1, 1997, is the registration deadline for October 1997 courses in The Mississippi Course of Study School (MSCOS). The school is designed for part-time local pastors; participants from the Louisiana Conference are eligible for enrollment.

Courses will be held Friday evening through Saturday morning October 10-11, 17-18, and 31-November 1.

Milsaps College in Jackson is the new host for MSCOS.

A registration fee of \$25 per course is required; checks should be made out to Milsaps College.

In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: Rev. Gray Wilson (retired, Shreveport district) on the death of his wife, Ann. Mrs. Wilson died Sunday, July 13. The funeral was held Wednesday, July 16 in Emerson, AK.

Rev. Terral Lowe (retired, Ruston district) on the death of his brother, Herbert Lowe, who died Thursday, July 17. The funeral was held Saturday, July 19 at 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, Minden, LA.

Dulac, LA continued from first page.

a positive influence on the community, according to Rev. Verret, lay leader since 1982 and pastor since 1989. "Their presence has been good for the morale of this community," he says, "and we have always had a good relationship with them."

So why is the Coast Guard leaving? According to Lt. Todd Tschannen, planning officer for the Coast Guard Eighth District Office in New Orleans, plans to vacate the Dulac operation are part of a large proposal his office has put before a Review Board in Washington, D.C. "We are proposing to combine the Dulac and Morgan City ANT stations to be more efficient and effective," says Tschannen. The Review Board looks at impact, cost, and political interests of proposed projects and decides if they will be implemented; once they make a decision (which he believes will be by the end of 1997), the plan can be carried out immediately, says the planning officer. If the Dulac operation is closed, he says, the land will be vacated and then turned over to the General Services Administration who will offer it to other government agencies and then put it on the open market to be sold to the highest bidder.

"You will need Congressional intervention," says Tschannen, adding that political influence is one of the major things which might effect the Review Boards decision. "I would say that you need to let them know that there is opposition to closing the station and selling the land to the highest bidder."

"Our statement to the government is," says Verret, "if the Coast Guard is here, great. If not, if you are removing them, give us back our land." He and his congregation fear that if the land is sold it will become a marina catering to the gambling, drugs and alcohol abuse they have struggled so hard to remove from their community.

"What is so valuable about this land to the Federal government that they need to sell it to the highest bidder? It is a drop in



A U.S. Coast Guard cutter rests at the dock at Dulac between bi-monthly service trips to nearby water-marking devices.

the bucket to them, but to us it is a jewel," he adds. "We hope our government could be honorable enough to do what's right, but this is God's property and we will fight to keep it in God's hands."

In June, delegates at the Louisiana Annual Conference approved a petition asking that the appropriate bodies within The United Methodist Church appeal to the government to restore the property at a fair price to its rightful owner (Clanton Chapel) if they no longer need it for the purpose for which it was purchased.

What can the rest of us do?

"State Senator Dr. Michael Robicheaux and others have written two letters on our behalf to the Coast Guard, but it would be helpful for people to write to their state and federal Congressman and ask him/her to contact Rep. W. J. "Billy" Tauzin (Dist. 3) in Washington on behalf of our cause," says Verret.

"We need everyone's help in this effort to keep our land," he adds.

Conference Program Calendar

August

1-3 Happening #10, Conference Center
22-23 Louisiana Conference Youth Worker Training
Conference Center
24 Christian Education Sunday
28-30 Disciple Bible Study Training, Baton Rouge
30 CCYM Meeting, Louisiana Conference Center

September

5-7 UMW Training for Dean/Assistant Dean, Scarrit-Bennet Center, Nashville
9-10 Town & Country Fall Retreat, Uskichitto Retreat Center
18 UMW Conference Executive Committee
18-21 Wade Kairos #4
19-20 UMW Conference Annual Meeting
22-23 Cabinet Meeting
24 Christian Education Sunday
25-28 Mens #17 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
25-28 Cursillo #60, Louisiana Conference Center
27 Fall Convocation, Newman UMC, Alexandria

Conference Youth Director Sought

The Louisiana Conference is seeking a part-time youth director to

work in the Baton Rouge office.

If you have experience working with youth on a local or district level, have a college degree and want to work in Baton Rouge, send a resume to: Leslie Akin, Director, Gospel Communications, Louisiana Area Office, 527 Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

All resumes must be received by August 1.

Dillard Announces Eighth Annual Summer Intensive English Program for Japanese Teens

A group of Japanese ninth graders from the all-male Kwansoi Gakuin Junior High School in Nishinomiya, Japan will arrive at Dillard University in New Orleans on July 31 for three weeks of exciting and effective instruction in English using materials from African American culture and history.

On August 3 at 4:30 p.m. a Unity Service will be held in Lawless Memorial Chapel to officially open the program.

The Sayonara Program, the culminating event of the teen's visit, will take place August 18 at 4 p.m. in the Samuel DuBois Cook Fine Arts and Communications Center. During this event the Japanese students will recite Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech in English.

The public is invited to attend both programs at no cost.

For more information, contact Dr. Makoto Fujita, director of Dillard's Japanese Studies Program at (504) 286-4707.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Events

Young Speaker Delivers Message on Youth Today

On Sunday, June 22, 12-year-old Brandon Troullier (pictured below) delivered a mini-sermon on "Youth Today: Which Direction?" at Hartzell Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Slidell, LA.

Brandon's address was part of "A Call to Ministry: Young People are the Church Today," a special service led by Alexandria District Superintendent

Dr. Donald Avery.

"Sometimes it's hard to do," says Brandon about public speaking. "I get stage fright. But, after it's over, it's great!"

Brandon is involved in many activities at the church and speaks often.

The youth choir and Steppers also participated in the program.



Camphor Celebrates Peace with Justice Sunday with "Vision" Talk

Baton Rouge--Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church, 8742 Scenic Highway observed Peace with Justice Sunday June 29 at their 10:55 a.m. service.

State Senator John Michael Guidry spoke on "God's Vision of Shalom for Creation."

The United Methodist Men's Chorus provided music for the service, which was sponsored by the Committee on Church and Society.



Summer Camp Kids at Caney Decorate Shoes for African Children

Minden, LA--

Children attending summer camp at the Caney Conference Center in June decorated 80 pairs of new tennis shoes which will be sent to children in Africa who need the shoes to protect their feet during long, rocky walks to get food for survival.

In the photo above, seated from left to right

are campers Devon Clayborn, Mandy Thomas, Mary Harrison, Elizabeth Bartlevaugh and Peyton McLemore. Assisting them (standing left to right) are camp staffers Marie Willis, Blake Rogers and Jesse Prophit.

The project is part of the Louisiana Conference's initiative to help Children in Need.

The shoes will be taken to the Conference Special Called Session on Children in Need at Louisiana College in Pineville on Saturday, October 4th and eventually delivered to the UMCOR depot in Baldwin, LA.

(Photo courtesy Minden Press-Herald Allen J.M. Smith.)

12 Louisiana Methodists Beautify Home in Belize

A work team of 12 people from churches in Sulphur and Baton Rouge (four pictured above) recently returned from a nine-day construction mission trip in Corozal, Belize, in the Carribbean.

The group, who said they bonded very closely as a result of "doing the Lord's work in Corozal," began a remodeling effort on a house so that a congregation would have a place to house a full-time minister and his family.

By the end of a week's work, the group had laid a new floor, put up and painted new walls, repaired the ceiling, replaced the tin roof and restored electricity to the house.



Ingleside UM Women Reach Out to Five-year-old Child in Need

Baton Rouge--Ingleside United Methodist Church's UM Women sponsored a donation drive in June which raised \$4,400 for five-year-old Brice Frost and his family.

Brice is a cancer patient who recently had brain surgery to remove a tumor. Making matters worse, Brice's mother died of cancer two years ago and the family has no health insurance. The group read about Brice's plight in a story in *The Advocate*, a Baton Rouge newspaper.

"Although we do not know Brice or his family personally, sometimes the Spirit calls us to action," says Virginia Aicken, a new member of Ingleside and coordinator of the fund raiser.

Collection tables were set up and staffed by men and women of the church at two Delchamps Supermarkets in Baton Rouge for nine days. (Baby sitting was provided by the church.) Although Delchamps does not usually allow this type of solicitation, its management was moved to make an exception after originally denying the church's request. "This effort was a great blessing for all who participated, both in staffing the tables and giving," said Mrs. Aicken. "It was the loving hands of Jesus reaching out."

If you would like to reach out to Brice, too, make your check payable to: Ingleside United Methodist Church and mark your check, "Brice Frost Fund." The address is: 4264 Capital Heights Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

For more information, contact Virginia Aicken at (504) 769-9635.

Natchitoches Churches Team Assist Project Hogar

Pictured above are youth and adult members of a Volunteers in Mission team from First United Methodist Church, Natchitoches, and Marthaville United Methodist Church, who recently returned from working with Project Hogar in Juarez, Mexico.

The team helped build a cinder block home for a family whose house was made out of paper and wooden pallets.

Project Hogar is a project of the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church; it assists with the construction of cinder block housing for those in need.

This is the second year Natchitoches adults and youth have helped with Project Hogar.

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Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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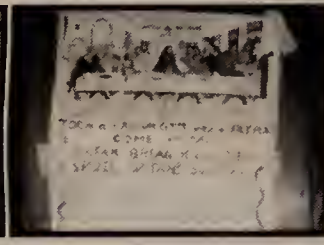
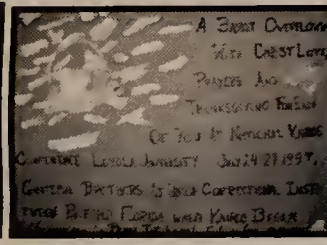
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August 8, 1997



PRISON MINISTRY: God's Special Time



Agape in the form of posters from prisons around the country decorated the halls at the Kairos National Summer Conference held at Loyola University.

Teams break down walls with love, cookies

by Bobbie Armstrong

Review Editor

New Orleans, LA—Cookies, love, listening. Not words we normally associate with maximum security prisons. But for many hundreds doing time behind prison walls, these words have come to be instruments of change.

To the more than 400 multi-denominational volunteers of the Kairos Prison Ministry, a large number whom are United Methodist, meeting here this week, these are the tools of the trade—their trade—Christianity. Having experienced renewal movements within their own churches through a focus on small group dynamics, share and prayer groups, personal witness and vulnerability in Christian community, and armed with the knowledge that a close personal encounter with Jesus can change the course of someone's life, they have been bringing that life-altering opportunity to the inmates of correctional institutions since 1976.

They gathered at Loyola University July 23-27, these lay and clergy volunteers from all walks of life and from all over the United States, for the annual Kairos National Summer Conference to talk mostly about love—Christian love, unconditional love—a love they know as agape, a love they believe can change the path of anyone it encounters, even those convicted and serving time for the most heinous and seemingly unforgivable crimes.

Their extremely effective vessel for delivery of this agape is a three-and-a-half-day Kairos weekend which brings this love embodied in the Holy Spirit to 42 carefully selected prison residents by a well-prepared team serving as apostles of Jesus who "Listen, Listen, Love, Love," the four Ls of the Kairos motto and who are themselves agape. These weekends have been known to transform everyone and everything in its path, including the participants (both residents and team members), the rest of the prison population, and even the guards and staff. Many residents, having learned to live their lives on a spiritual basis, come back to Kairos as volunteers when they are released.

The main purpose of Kairos, a word interpreted from its Greek origin to mean "God's special time," is to go into a prison, and through a systematic, structured program offer the experience of religious renewal and acceptance of a call to Christian witness to inmate leaders. These leaders then themselves become apostles, influencing and teaching other prisoners and thereby establishing strong Christian commu-

nities within the population of a correctional institution. The overall effect is a better prison environment and a marked decrease in the recidivism rate (return to prison for repeat offenses after release) for those who attend a Kairos weekend and stay active in its follow-up programs. Studies in Florida's correctional facilities indicate a difference of 28 percent recidivism for non-Kairos participants to nine percent recidivism for Kairos participants.

The dynamics of the Kairos program that make it so successful are many:

Dear Kairos Volunteer:

You will never fully know the changes in my life because of Kairos. Because you cared enough to give of yourself, I have learned that I am important to God and that I am worthy of his love.

Because of my crime and my sentence, I just know that people in the free world would condemn me forever. You showed me differently. I just knew that no one would ever care for me again. You showed me differently.

Because of your teaching, I have been willing to take risks that I would never have done before. I learned to listen to others and to share their pain and sorrow. I learned to open-up, tear down walls, and to be hurt without getting angry. Because of all of you, I've learned that it is alright to cry. I've learned that if you want people to love you, you've got to let them into "your space." I've also learned that loving people sometimes really hurts, but that is alright because at least now I can feel the pain.

None of this would have been possible without Kairos, and I finally get to say thank-you. You Kairos Volunteers have given me the healthiest outlook on life that I have ever had. I beg you to continue the work that you do here. It is so vital to so many of us.

An agape letter from an inmate at LCIW at St. Gabriel incarcerated for murder expresses appreciation.

Its agape-centered Christian teams offer to inmates, most whom have never experienced it before, an outpouring of love without expectations of anything in return, non-judgmental listening, vulnerability, unconditional acceptance and palpable affirmation of each inmate for exactly who he or she is, no matter how broken. Kairos, according to a manual for leaders, says to those "who feel unloved, unwanted, put away in storage, 'You are worthwhile. I affirm your worthiness. I love you.'" By example, the inmates learn to give love back.

Each inmate becomes part of a nine person "table family," the team members and inmates he/she sits with for the

weekend. Each table is guided by three Kairos team members—two lay persons, one clergy—and supports each participant fully, listens to him, prays with him and for him and creates a sense of belonging to a family many have never known before. Lasting relationships are formed.

Meditations and talks during the weekend offer the chance to experience and reflect upon concepts such as gratitude; forgiveness (of oneself and others); the nature of God's love; the Prodigal son; self examination (Life Lines); the spiritual laws of owning up to our faults, accepting them and then offering them to God to be removed; and the power of listening.

Kairos is an ongoing ministry. After the weekend course, there are weekly prayer and share groups for the residents as well as monthly one-day resident programs and two-day mini retreats twice a year. According to prison officials at the conference, this is the aspect of Kairos that sets it apart from other prison ministries and makes it so successful.

Oh, yeah...the cookies. Handmade with love by members of local churches who support the Kairos mission, they are fresh-baked messengers of God's love. The cookies have touched many inmates who have never had homemade anything and are moved that someone would come inside their walls to share them, even with those on death row.

In Louisiana, the Kairos Ministry is active at Angola Men's Prison and Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women at St. Gabriel in south Louisiana and at the Winn and Wade Correctional Facilities in north Louisiana.

During a panel discussion featuring Louisiana prison officials, including the wardens from Angola and Wade, the assistant warden and chaplain from St. Gabriel and Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Corrections Richard Stalder (a United Methodist), Friday night at the conference, all wholeheartedly affirmed that Kairos has had a very positive effect on prison populations and the recidivism rate in Louisiana (more than any other outreach program) and they want more of it in their facilities.

Kairos, Inc. is a non-profit organization and its ecumenical work is funded by contributions from individuals, civic organizations and church groups. For more information, contact them at: 140 N. Orlando Avenue, Suite 275, Winter Park, FL 32789. Phone: (407)629-4948. In Louisiana, David Qualls (318) 583-4602 is the district president.



Bishop Dan E. Solomon

Being and Doing



"Identity and Mission"

What values are present in the United Methodist wing of the household of the Christian

family?

I tried to address that question at the Ecumenical breakfast during the recent Annual Conference session. Present were bishops and judicatory leaders from several Protestant denominations, as well as the Roman Catholic Church. It was a joy to be eating and talking together with these sisters and brothers in Christ. We belong to the same household. We proclaim "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of us all." (Ephesians. 4:5)

For meaningful dialogue to occur it is important that we articulate clearly our respective identities and convictions, and that we do so in an atmosphere of deep respect for and affirmation of others in our midst. A more enriching dialogue occurs when we lay on the table who we are—our vulnerabilities, our hopes, and our convictions.

Here are six perspectives that, I believe, reflect what United Methodism brings to the household of ecumenical conversation and cooperation.

1) Christ is the head of the household. It is Christ who decides who lives in relationship with God and thereby defines who the relatives are in the household. Deciding who is "in and out" of the household is ultimately God's business through the work of Christ. Our responsibility is to place all our decisions about church order against the "plumb line" of the life and ministry of Jesus. Even the rest of the Bible must be so measured.

2) Entrance into the household is by God's initiative. It is God's birthing that produces a new life. Baptism is the church's "sign—act" of God's initiative,

not ours. Because United Methodists believe that baptism points to the power of God's grace among us, it would be unthinkable for us to conclude that such "grace-power" is restricted to age or gender categories. We baptize all ages because baptism points to God's response to us, not our response to God.

3) There is only one table for the household. It is owned by God. There are no secondary tables, regardless of race or regulation or status. There is no fence around the table. All who compose the household are welcome to come to the table to be fed by Christ, the host of the table.

4) Members of the household thrive, not on sameness, but on shared servant witness. Doing together the work of justice and mercy creates unity of spirit and builds bridges of respect and appreciation. Or, as one of my ecumenical colleagues observed some years ago when several downtown churches established a joint ministry of service and justice, "our working together has just naturally led us to worship together!" Mission creates unity!

5) Because there are so many without a home, we believe the household should be welcoming, even encouraging of others to share in the blessings of God to be focused in and through the household. Bishop William Friend, Shreveport Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church addressed the Annual Conference in a very warm and collegial fashion. He noted, "there are so many in just this portion of Louisiana who have never experienced the joy of life of Christ that it will require the diligent effort of all of us to proclaim the Good News for all persons."

6) We believe this household must respect other religious traditions, whose ways may seem unusual, even inadequate or incorrect, while living our household witness in a gentle, clear way that makes clear for others that Jesus is the Lord of our life, not so much because we say so, but because we demonstrate by our daily living that it is so!

Being clear about our identity and mission makes us better partners in God's mission of transformation for a hurting world.

Dan E. Solomon

Ministers' Week "Beyond Words"

They called it "Beyond Words: Preaching, Worship, and Proclaiming the Gospel in a Foreign Land." The church's challenge to proclaim the gospel in a new day was the focus of Ministers' Week 1997, held at the new Louisiana Conference Center.

The event drew 85 clergy and laity from across the state and was a rich blessing for all who attended.

Dr. Gene Lowry, William K. McElvaney professor of Preaching at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City led several of the sessions.

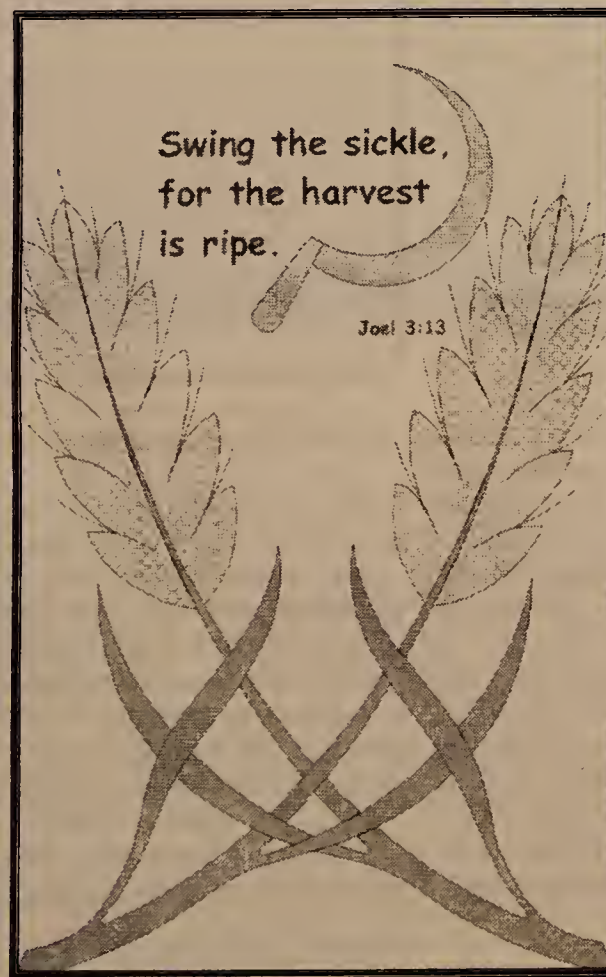
Marcia McFee, gifted leader of worship, also offered her unique and energetic leadership. Marcia has been the worship leader at many UM events including the 1997 Annual Conference. In her sessions, Marcia prompted many to think about the ways in which worship services are planned, who is involved, and how the gospel can be proclaimed through creative worship.

Louisiana Conference districts challenged to 'Swing the sickle,' harvest new churches

On July 22-23, each district's Board of Church Location and Building met with the cabinet and Bishop Dan Solomon at the Conference Center to discuss ideas and strategies for starting new churches. All nine districts made a commitment to add at least one new church this quadrennium.

In a spirit of inspiration gleaned from the theme of the meeting-- "Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe" (Joel 3:13)-- the discussions were led by Bishop Solomon, Rev. Greg Davis, chair of the Conference Board of Church Extension, and Rev. Leslie Akin, Conference director, Gospel Communications.

The boards shared both what is happening and what needs to happen in their districts, identifying stumbling blocks that keep new churches from being planted.



Over a dozen models and methods for developing new churches were examined, many non-traditional and innovative. New churches, the group learned, can be started without a great deal of money. Facilities can be shared and people and established churches can be recruited for membership and financial support.

Districts were challenged to develop strategies for new church planting based on what they had learned in the brainstorming session, remembering that there are people hungering and thirsting for the Word of God. We can and will reach them, the leaders declared, through United Methodist churches, old and new.

Motivated by the exciting opportunities and challenges to "harvest ripe crops," each district board left with encouragement from Bishop Solomon: "These are your marching orders. May God be with you as you carry out the important task of starting new churches."



Join us in mission to those in need!

Louisiana Conference UMM Men

Men and Boys Retreat

Friday October 10-1 p.m. to

Saturday, October 11-5pm

Sager Brown

Baldwin, LA

**All Methodist men invited; all boys
age 12-over invited.**

Cost: \$25

**Meals not included. Please bring
sheets, pillows, towel and tools:**

hammer, skill saws, etc.

Three work sessions available:

**Friday p.m., Saturday a.m. and
p.m.**

**Light work available for physical
limitations.**

**Registration required before
September 27.**

To register:

Send check payable to LA

Conference UMM to James

Hinckley, 7458 Highway 126

Dodson, LA 71422

**Please indicate sessions to be
attended.**

UMM 7th Congress inspires men to "Respond to Christ"



Over 30 red-vested men from the Louisiana Conference UMM attended the 7th Congress at Purdue University.



Officers of the New Orleans District Louisiana Conference UMM enjoy fellowship at the 7th Congress held in July. Standing left to right: Herbert Marks, correspondence sec.; Arthur Robertson, historian; Wallace D. Smith, president; and Ed Z. Gilbert, treasurer.

Photos courtesy of Wallace D. Smith.

More than 30 men from the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Men (UMM) organization attended and were uplifted by the 7th International Congress of United Methodist Men held July 11-13 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN.

The theme of this historical last big gathering of UMM in the 20th century was "Men Responding to Christ." This was the first Congress under the new General Commission on United Methodist Men which was formed as a result of legislation approved at the 1996 General Conference in Denver, removing UMM from the governance of the General Board of Discipleship.

Rev. James Forbes, pastor of Riverside Church in New York City, urged the 3,500 men in attendance to "get on the path of active service to the Lord," and Rev. John Ed Matheson of Montgomery, AL, said, the United Methodist Church will become an "all full" church when its people become filled with awe at God's signs and wonders. Dr. Leonard Sweet's talk was entitled "Cast Your Nets and Feed My

Sheep."

Musical ministry included performances by Celia Whitler (daughter of Bill Sirman, retired Louisiana UM minister), the Red Bird Mission Singers, Ralph Freeman, the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Men's Choir, and the Queen's Chapel Choir.

A Ministry Fair featured over 50 exhibits providing information and merchandise and 18 workshops offered in depth information on a variety of topics. Other Congress activities included an afternoon visitation in several local neighborhoods, a 5-kilometer race, a one-mile walk, a celebration of the Commission on UMM and a campaign that brought in \$414,000 to make the commission self-supporting in four years.

Lapel pins commemorating the 7th Congress and the new General Commission are available for \$5. Contact James Hinckley, president of the Louisiana Conference UMM, at 7458 Highway 126, Dodson, LA 71422, to purchase a pin or for further information. Make checks payable to Louisiana Conference UMM.

A Word of Witness: Rev. Fred Wideman Wesley healed with faith and medicine

Editors note: From time to time we will publish this "A Word of Witness" column. If you would like to contribute, please send us your article for consideration.

For years I have wanted to take the Wesley Heritage tour in Great Britain about which I had heard many great reviews. I just returned this past June and was not disappointed.

We visited the old rectory where Samuel and Susanna raised their brood, visited old St. Andrews where Samuel served, and held the silver chalice from which the Wesleys celebrated communion. We saw many of the places of John Wesley's ministry, the New Room in Bristol, Wesley Chapel (City Road), St. Paul's Cathedral and Aldersgate Street in London, and Christ Church College at Oxford University (where Wesley studied with some of the greatest minds in the world).

Many of these places we visited had some of Wesley's possessions like the gown in which he was baptized, the robe in which he preached (in much better shape than my own) and many books and letters. But, of all the possessions we saw, two stand out as most interesting. One was a replica of an exercise machine made from a series of boxes stacked and connected by springs. A person would sit on the boxes and bounce up and down as though horseback riding.

The other intriguing item was an electrical shock machine which Wesley used to help people who suffered from depression. Not much publicity has been given to the fact that John Wesley practiced medicine. Wesley records in his diary that he prescribed medi-

cine "for six or seven hundred of the poor as I know were proper for their several disorders." The curator of the old rectory said that one of the many medicines given by Wesley was a pill made from spider webs. (If this ever catches on again, I have a store room worth a mint!)

Wesley listed five rules for healthy living:

1. Observe at all times the greatest exactness in your regimen or manner of living.
2. Abstain from all mixed or high-seasoned food. Use plain diet, easy of digestion, and this as sparingly as you can, consistent with ease and strength.
3. Drink only water if it agrees with your stomach; if not, good clear small beer.
4. Use as much exercise daily in the open air as you can without weariness. Walking is the best exercise for those who are able to bear it, riding for those who are not. (He does not mean in an automobile.)
5. Sup at six or seven on the lightest food; go to bed early and rise betimes.

While the overall tour included much more than only Wesleyan history, the exposure to that time in history emphasized for me what a great heritage we Methodists have. These lessons reaffirmed for me what I have always thought: John Wesley was a holistic minister.

Wesley refused to separate faith from medicine, knowledge from vital piety, nor his restless search for assurance from his practice of social ethics—a lesson we can still benefit from today.

Rev. Wideman is pastor of Trinity UMC in Ruston.

Disciple Bible Study registration growing

Good news! There are presently 109 persons registered for the Disciple Training scheduled in Baton Rouge August 28-30.

This represents a commitment for trained leadership in Disciple Bible Study that will benefit Louisiana Conference United Methodist churches directly.

If you would like to participate in this excellent training opportunity, there's still time; call 1-800-672-1789 to register.

The cost is \$650 for newly enrolled churches and \$250. for any additional person from that church.

Sorry, scholarship funds are no longer available.

UMCOR relief containers bound for North Korea

From UM News Service

Two containers holding 1,362 relief boxes for North Korean families suffering the effects of famine were shipped July 22 by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

The containers were shipped from the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, La. Each box contains enough food to feed a family of five for a week.

Another shipment is planned for August.

Essay contest for youth

The World Council of Churches is sponsoring a biblical essay contest for young people. The topic: jubilee.

First prize is a trip to Zimbabwe to the WCC Assembly in December 1998. Deadline to submit essay is May 1998.

Call (212) 870-3193 for information.

In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

Rev. Lorris and Becky Wimberly (pastor, Francis Asbury UMC, Baton Rouge District) on the death of Becky's father, **Al Esneault**, July 29. Funeral services were held in Metairie July 31.

Rev. Mark Dowell (pastor, Oak Grove, Monroe District) whose mother, **Mrs. Margaret Dowell**, died July 27. Services were conducted July 29 in Petersburg, IL.

Rev. William Miller (Hughes Memorial, Baton Rouge District) on the death of his brother, **James Miller**, July 24 in San Francisco.

The family of **Mrs. Lillie Mae McQuid Pomeroy** (surviving spouse of **Rev. George W. Pomeroy**—Lake Charles District) who died July 21. Funeral services were held in Lake Charles July 24 with graveside services in Monroe July 25.

The family of **Mrs. Lenora Trice**, surviving spouse of **Rev. William E. Trice**, founding pastor of University UMC in Baton Rouge. Mrs. Trice died July 20 and was buried in Dallas July 23. **There will be a memorial service for her August 10 at University UMC in Baton Rouge.**

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Events

Picture your church news here..
Send news and photos (color okay) to:
Bobbie Armstrong
Editor
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Asbury, Immanuel to celebrate "Together in Christ"

On August 31st at 7:00 p.m., there will be a "Together in Christ" Worship Service and "Afterglow" at Asbury United Methodist Church in Lafayette. This will be the first of many upcoming joint worship experiences between Asbury and Immanuel United Methodist Church.

Rev. Bruce Brown, pastor at Immanuel, will bring the message, and the Immanuel Choir will lead in song. The offering taken at the "Together in Christ" Service will be used towards the purchase of tennis shoes to be sent to African children.

"Afterglow" fellowship in the gym will follow the service. Special activities are being planned for the combined youth groups as well.

Since Annual Conference last year,

the two churches have been excited about being "intentionally inclusive" and have been pursuing ideas of how to worship, study and witness "together in Christ." Both pastors and churches wholeheartedly support the "pulpit exchange" on "fifth Sunday" evening worship dates and are hoping to have combined Disciple study groups this fall as well.

The next "Together in Christ" Worship Service will be in March at the new Immanuel UMC sanctuary and Rev. Bob Burgess, pastor of Asbury, will be preaching the Word.

We will all be witnessing to the fact that we are "one in Christ" while celebrating our diversity and being intentionally "inclusive". Come celebrate with us!

Clanton Chapel puts training into action

Clanton Chapel UMC of Dulac had a special evangelism event on the weekend of June 27-29 to bring back members who had not been seen for a while.

Dr. Alonzo Campbell led a training session on Saturday which was then put into action by teams of two who went out into the community inviting and sharing God's word. Some of the visits were made at crucial times to homes in crises; even homes that were not visited by the teams, were visited by the Lord. For example, a couple was to be visited, but due to a heavy shower, the home was skipped. The next morning, the young lady who was to be visited joined the church and the tiny chapel was packed. (Picture left.)

Plans are being made to move into a larger sanctuary, but first a chair drive will be launched to accommodate increased attendance.

Clanton Chapel can seat only 65 persons comfortably. An old church acquired a few years ago is being converted to a much larger sanctuary and will be able to hold 150 or more persons.

If anyone is interested in making donations to purchase new chairs, please call (504) 563-2549 or write: Clanton Chapel Chair Drive, P.O. Box 149, Dulac, LA 70353. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Conference Program Calendar

August

22-23 Louisiana Conference Youth Worker Training, Conference Center
24 Christian Education Sunday
28-30 Disciple Bible Study Training, Baton Rouge
30 CCYM Meeting, Louisiana Conference Center

September

5-7 UMW Training for Dean/Assistant Dean, Scarrit-Bennet Center, Nashville
8-9 Order of Elders Meeting, Conference Center, 12 Noon-12 Noon
9-10 Town & Country Fall Retreat, Uskichitto Retreat Center
18 UMW Conference Executive Committee
18-21 Wade Kairos #4
19-20 UMW Conference Annual Meeting
22-23 Cabinet Meeting
24 Christian Education Sunday
25-28 Mens #7 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
25-28 Cursillo #60, Louisiana Conference Center
27 Fall Convocation, Newman UMC, Alexandria

Are we having fun yet?

NOW I'LL TELL A JOKE



(A 50 year collection of jokes)

Rev. Jerome Cain & Elsie

Bored with your day or sermon and need a lift or a laugh?

Rev. Jerome Cain (retired Alexandria District superintendent) and his wife Elsie have compiled their favorite jokes from 50

years in the ministry into a booklet, *Now I'll Tell A Joke*.

This great little addition to your library costs only \$3.95, which includes shipping and sales tax. Profits go to missions.

Order your copy by sending a check to the Cains at: 5016 Parkoaks Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. Their phone number is (504) 753-0518. Go ahead, laugh out loud!

Two friends met on the street one day.

"Do you wake up grouchy in the morning?"

"Goodness, no! I let her sleep!"

Bossier City UMC seeking musician

First United Methodist Church of Bossier City is looking for an organist/pianist for its large music ministry.

They need a professional with strong organ and piano accompanying skills and a Christian commitment to 20-25 hours per week. Salary negotiable.

Contact Dr. Dan Gibbs at (318) 742-3823, or fax letter and resume to (318) 746-1819.



"Pounding" Pastor Minyard

Tom Head, right, Pastor Parish Relations Committee chair for the Bernice Charge (Ruston District), welcomes Rev. Billy Minyard, new pastor.

The church gave the Minyards an old-fashioned "pounding"--1 lb. gifts of food -- in the fellowship hall.



Wesley UMC hosts Community Male Chorus

The Community Male Chorus of Marshall Texas (pictured above with their female accompanist) performed at Wesley United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge on Saturday, July 19 and Sunday, July 20.

The 22-member Male Chorus is an interdenominational chorus with "an average age of sixty-five who just love to praise the Lord through song;" the group has been performing all over the country since 1977.

Four charter members are still performing with the chorus.

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United Methodist Review
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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August 22, 1997

'Children in Need' Called Session will offer tools to make a difference

The October 4th Called Session of the 1997 Annual Conference focused on the bishop's initiative on Children in Need is fast approaching. It will be held at Louisiana College in Pineville from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is going to be a unique opportunity for all local churches to get the tools they need to make a real difference in the lives of the children in their communities. "And we do mean *all* churches, no matter how small or large," says Joanne White, chair of the Louisiana Conference Task Force for Children in Need. "Everyone will learn viable options for reaching the children around them in need."

The Children in Need session is focused specifically on early childhood issues. Some of the workshops will be historical in that they will make available curriculums and activities never before used for teaching in a church environment. Experts have been consulted and 26 major issues identified. Curriculum are being written specifically to be distributed at this event, including curriculum for teaching life skills, interpersonal relationships, social skill and even therapeutic art classes.

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Mark 10:14

As many people as possible should attend. Each workshop will last an hour and a half; everyone can attend two workshops. The conference will count as .5 CEUs.

You need to pre-register by September 1. Local pastors have registration forms. There is no charge for the conference or lunch. Child care for children under six will be provided for \$15 for the day; pastors also have registration forms for child care.

Please see page 2 for a list of workshops offered (with conveners) and the bishop's guidelines for attendance. Watch future *Reviews* for details.

Shalom Zone in the city: Intern Kelly Ray's 'Search for Shalom' leads to New Orleans

by Bobbie Armstrong
Review Editor

Editor's note: This is part I in a series on the Louisiana Shalom Zone project.

*I keep searching for shalom,
drawing my water from one well after
another—
but still I thirst*



Kelly Ray stands in front of the First UMC of Kenner, one of the sites for her summer internship.

*for the shower of blessing
that is
shalom.**

N e w Orleans—In these times of Generation X kids who often seem lost, void and without direction, 20-year-old Kelly West Ray offers hope. Bright, strong, passionate and convicted about her path, Kelly stands

firm in her faith--pure Wesleyan Methodism--which has come alive for her through the Communities of Shalom program (Shalom Zone) started in 1992 by the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

A third year student in Development Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, Kelly has just completed a summer here as the first national Shalom Zone intern. She was introduced to the project last spring at Global Gathering III in Kansas City and was immediately attracted to its "amazingly Methodist, practical way of going into a community and empowering people." In November, she will attend the National Shalom Committee meeting as the first young adult member of its board of directors.

*I yearn
for life to be just and merciful and peaceful,
but the streets are filled with daily deaths
of spirit and of flesh
but no shalom.**

The Shalom Zone initiative offers proactive ministry to low income communities by uniting local churches, residents, schools and businesses in a common mis-

sion for community wholeness and wellness—spiritually, physically, economically and culturally—giving the word dimensions far greater than its ancient Hebrew "peace."

The state of shalom is built block by block, Kelly explains, when a church reaches out to the community surrounding it and says, "Here we are. We are Christians and we are being accountable for what we believe in—the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want to build up this community." The groups come together and create a vision for their community. They define their problems, identify goals and solutions and then formulate action plans to bring about change. "I love it because it is the church being accountable for itself without forcing anything on anybody," Kelly says, "When you are helping to make vision happen, people will join you."

...Here in the streets

*I find shalom.**

Over the summer, Kelly has worked with three of the five Shalom Zone ministries in New Orleans and Kenner. These include First Street UMC and Napoleon Avenue UMC in New Orleans and First UMC in Kenner. While all three were at different stages of development in their programs, she helped them focus on ways to make their visions happen. A letter she wrote to the mayor's office resulted in an invitation for all three to participate in a city-wide alliance for human services. First Street and Napoleon Avenue are now jointly involved in a long-term project to open a restaurant in the city. First UMC Kenner is formulating a means to witness to children through a program with local schools.

"Kelly has been a real blessing to the Louisiana Shalom Zone ministries," says Dr. Alonzo Campbell, Conference director of the Shalom Zone projects. "We are very fortunate to have been chosen as the site to host the first intern nationally and to be energized by Kelly's great ideas and enthusiasm." Lynda Byrd, national director for Communities of Shalom, who engineered the intern program launched with Kelly's summer in New Orleans, echoes Dr. Campbell's sentiments: "The success and impact of Shalom will be greatly benefitted if we can tap into the Kelly Rays out there who have a lot of talent and energy to bring to our communities."



Kelly works in the Freret/Napoleon Hope Zone Community Garden with Rev. Jeff Conner, pastor of Napoleon UMC (second from right), and two neighborhood youth who have plots in the garden.

Shalom lives Staff photos by Bobbie Armstrong

*not in the sanctuary,
but in the streets...
in chaos
on a cross.
In the face of Jesus
is the peace
that passes all understanding
the everlasting Sabbath...
Shalom!**

*From *Searching for Shalom* by Ann Weems.



The First Street UMC Shalom Zone committee stand in front of a dilapidated neighborhood house they plan to convert into a senior citizen center. Kelly is pictured right and Dr. Alonzo Campbell stands left.



Bishop Dan E. Solomon

Being and Doing



"A Smiling Scene"

Here is a story that is true, and whose truths can be as true to every congregation in Louisiana as to the Gouldsboro United Methodist Church in Winter

Harbor, Maine.

Last November the Gouldsboro United Methodist Church decided to close. Dwindling membership and a general malaise seemingly brought the congregation to a dismal conclusion. Arriving at Easter 1997, the few folks left desired an Easter Service, so a clergy person was asked to lead Easter Sunday Services. Eleven people attended. However, there also came to the church a request to help the North Dakota flood relief.

Though they were small in number, the "Easter crowd" decided they could do something. They set to work obtaining a supply list from UMCOR. The little band then went out to collect supplies and funds.

A most remarkable result has taken place since Easter Sunday. Going to work to help others has awakened new life in the Gouldsboro congregation. Not only did the congregation send 23 cartons of supplies and \$600 to North Dakota flood relief, they have resumed Sunday worship.

There have been two baptisms, up to 35 in worship, and five persons enrolled

Gladness and joy have returned to the congregation.

in a new member class since the congregation turned its focus outward to address the needs and suffering of others. As long as the congregation was the mission, it declined and died. When the congregation began to be and do mission, it came alive. Or, as it was so forcefully stated by a speaker in a recent meeting I attended, "Mission is not some program of the church, mission is the nature of the church."

John Wesley once stated, "Whatever God has done once, God can do again." The remarkable resurrection of the Gouldsboro United Methodist Church can and will happen in United Methodist churches across Louisiana as we claim God's power to be a missional people.

It is no secret as to what enlivens and renews a congregation. Vital and alive congregations all have one thing in common—they are "mission engaged." So it is with vital and alive persons—they are always sharing and giving persons.

There is another result being experienced by the Gouldsboro congregation that cannot be measured by cartons and dollars. Gladness and joy have returned to the congregation. Instead of frustration and fussing, people are working together, enjoying life in the church. Instead of prayers of desperation, there are prayers of thanksgiving. Instead of "woe is us," there is hope and a "what can we do next?" spirit.

In other words, a smile has returned to the face of the congregation, and I believe, there is also a smile on the face of God.

Is your congregation a "smiling scene?"

Dan E. Solomon

Special Called Session of the Annual Conference

"Children in Need"

October 4, 1997

Louisiana College, Pineville, LA

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WORKSHOPS/Conveners

- 1) Connecting With Children Around the World--Joy Solomon
- 2) Ministries with the Disabled Child--Judy and Terry Willis
- 3) The Church's Response to Children Facing the Risks of Addictions (Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol, Gambling)--Fred and Ann Wideman
- 4) Ministries with Troubled and Incarcerated Children--Terrel DeVille
- 5) Pastoral Care in the Adoption Journey--So You Want to Adopt--Network for Adoption--Gary and Amy Willis
- 6) Ministering with Abused and Neglected Children/Foster Care--Doug Ezell
- 7) Creativity with Art that Creates Healing and Growth--A New Curriculum Approach--Hope Norman
- 8) Life Skills, Social Skills, Community Skills for Healing and Growth--A Community Outreach Plan--Norma and Robert Ed Taylor
- 9) Making Disciples of Children--Jon Telfiero and Don Avery
- 10) The Media, Children and the Church--Leslie Akin

Children and Poverty and the Church

- 11) Local Church Initiatives through Comprehensive and Direct Services--Judy Watts and C.J. Guillory
- 12) Christmas Ministries--No Child Left Out--Carolyn Dove
- 13) Congregations: Here's How Regarding Housing--Jerry Hilbun and Freddie Banks
- 14) Compassionate Congregations and the Special Learning Needs of Disadvantaged Children--Dr. Anita Crump and Leroy Crump
- 15) Building Strong Families--Arnold and Doris Brown

Child Care Issues

- 16) So You Want to Begin a Weekly Early Childhood Education Program--Bobby and Joan Potter
- 17) Enhancing Your Church's Early Childhood Program--Joyce Hazel
- 18) Tutorial Programs--A Connection for All Ages--Ann Rhoads
- 19) Organized Recreation Programs--Affirming and Developing Children--Freddie Henderson
- 20) Special Needs of the Urban Child and the Church's Response--Nick Evans
- 21) Special Needs of the Rural Child and the Church's Response--Darryl Tate and Reggie Skains
- 22) Deciding On Your Community's Needs: Organizing Ministry--Chuck Simmons
- 23) Health Issues of Children and the Role of the Church--Dianne Wilkinson
- 24) Special Needs of Atypical and Gifted and Talented Children and the Role of the Church--Judy and Larry O'Dell
- 25) Camping Options--Leisure Activities for Children--Mark and Terrie Crosby
- 26) Counseling Terminally Ill Children--Dr. Robin Bennett

Bishops Guidelines for Attendance at Called Session

Church size:

I to 99	at least	5 attend
100 to 299	at least	8 attend
300 to 499	at least	12 attend
500 to 699	at least	15 attend
700 to 999	at least	8 attend
1000 to 1499	at least	21 attend
1500 to 1999	at least	25 attend
2000 +	at least	30 attend

Coming up . . .

Two events are coming up at the end of this month which we remind everyone to take part in and offer special prayers for event leaders and participants:

Sunday, August 24

Christian Education Sunday--

a celebration in local congregations of the influence of Christian education in people's lives.

August 28-30

Disciple Bible Study Training--

a three-day workshop for teachers of this dynamic 34-week course in the Bible from Genesis to Revelations. It is being held at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge. Approximately 200 participants are registered.

Final Sabbath Rest event planned for November

Do you need it?

Clergy, are you ready for the final Sabbath Rest event scheduled for November 7-9 at the Conference Center?

The theme is "Life in the Spirit" and its focus is the person, the work and the power of the Holy Spirit. Hosted by Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, an affiliate of the the Upper Room, the seminar is available for laity and clergy.

If you're not sure you need the "rest," we found a great list of ways to check your stress level:

- 1) You eat a whole bag of Nacho chips during a committee meeting.
- 2) You accidentally drop your telephone over the side of a tall bridge.
- 3) You have an irresistible urge to jump over and find the phone.
- 4) When someone confides in you, your best response is, "So you think you have problems!"
- 5) You catch yourself referring your pastoral care to "Dr. Laura."
- 6) While your stewardship chairperson is giving an impassioned speech about pledges, you absent-mindedly fold the budget into a paper airplane and fly it over the congregation.
- 7) Halfway through the service, you realize the horrible dream you had last night about leaving your sermon notes at home -- is true!
- 8) You keep falling asleep during your own pastoral prayer.
- 9) Ten minutes before the worship service, you find yourself driving around and you can't find the church.
- 10) You are the only one to show up for the Administrative Council meeting.

Can anyone relate?

Contact Leslie Akin at (504) 364-1646, ext. 220, to register.

List published in *Circuit West*, the California-Pacific Annual Conference edition of the United Methodist Review.

South African bishop to lead prayer conference in Illinois

Bishop Peter Storey, currently serving the South Western Transvaal District of the Methodist Church in South Africa, will be one of the leaders of "GETTING CONNECTED: Building Personal Prayer Lives," a Renewal Conference on Prayer being hosted by First UMC of Peoria, Ill., September 12-14.

Bishop Storey served on the South African Council of Churches for 10 years and writes a column for one of South Africa's leading newspapers. He has long been an advocate for justice and non-violent change in his country.

Dr. Michael B. Slaughter, author of *Spiritual Entrepreneurs*, and Andy Hurst, director of the Texas Tech Wesley Foundation in Lubbock, Texas, will be co-leaders of the event with Bishop Storey.

Registration deadline is September 1. The cost is \$10 per person, seventh grade or older. Call (309) 673-3641 to register or for details.

Louisiana Volunteers In Mission announces events

Louisiana Volunteers in Mission (VIM) has announced two October events:

The VIM 6th Annual Work Camp will be held October 12-18 at Heifer Project's International Learning and Livestock Center near Perryville, Ark., 40 miles west of Little Rock. The 200-acre ranch offers a Global Village and demonstrations of life in developing regions and provides "hands on" experience in small scale livestock management, and repair and maintenance of the facility. Both skilled and unskilled labor is needed.

On October 17-18, the Fall Training Event will be held at the Sager-Brown Center for Enabling Ministries in Baldwin, La., for people interested in direct involvement in mission or in mission camp work.

The training will cover the basics of mission theology, mission experience and how to enjoy and learn from a mission work camp.

Contact Dr. Alonzo Campbell at (504) 346-1646 for information.

DOING IT A DIFFERENT WAY

"God led me to it," says Sandra Russell, owner of Here Today Gone Tomorrow thrift store. Sandra runs the huge three-building operation "out of the love of doing it."

Here Today Gone Tomorrow shares profits with charities



Review staff photo by Bobbie Armstrong

by Bobbie Armstrong
Review Editor

For Sandra Russell, owner of Here Today Gone Tomorrow thrift store in Baton Rouge, moving junk is a labor of love.

Life-long Methodists and members of St. John's UMC in Baton Rouge, Sandra and husband Gerry took their life's savings and started the non-profit second-hand store in 1993 when they were supposed to be retiring.

Why? "I love it. God led me to it," Sandra says emphatically. "And... I have always been attracted to garbage."

What you find when you enter this amazing three-building arena of "stuff" is a well-cared for store which has items carefully and lovingly arranged (the clothes are even sorted by color).

But what's really unique about Here Today Gone Tomorrow is that your purchases and donations go to help others.

When items are dropped off, the donor

can request that proceeds go to any number of charities on Sandra's list including many area UM churches as well as the Methodist Mission Center of Baton Rouge, the Women's Crisis Center, Battered Women's Program, the Red Cross and many others. The items are then marked with a code for that charity using a sophisticated computer program. When the item sells, 50 percent of the profits are donated to that charity.

This store has *everything*--clothes, shoes, furniture, decorative items, books, etc.--and it's all in good condition--and inexpensive with frequent 1/2 off sales.

"We are not getting rich off of this," Sandra says, "in fact, we make just enough to keep it going. But, the opportunity to own this business as a non-profit and help others has been a real blessing in our lives."

Visit them or take your treasures to help others soon. Here Today Gone Tomorrow is located at 10240 Burbank Drive. Their phone number is (504) 769-2259.

Results of Special Sunday Observances for 1996

Date	Special Offering	No. of Churches	Total Received
January 14	Human Relations Day	203	9,092.45
March 17	One Great Hour of Sharing	245	31,996.80
Apr. 7, Oct. 27	Good Samaritan Observance	180	35,004.73
April 21	Native American Awareness	184	7,013.17
May 5	Youth Service Fund	152	6,483.67
May 12, Dec. 22	Children's Homes Offering	180	40,810.43
June 2	Peace with Justice Sunday	184	6,217.82
August 25	Christian Education Sunday	165	5,312.79
September 8	Mt. Sequoyah Offering	137	7,683.38
September 15	Retired Ministers' Homes Sunday	35	2,760.71
October 6	World Communion Sunday	237	14,677.11
November 24	United Methodist Student Day	190	9,225.74

Source: Dr. Stone Caraway, Conference Ex. Director, Administrative Services

In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

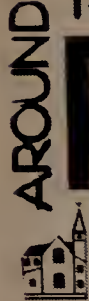
Rev. Benedict Galloway, retired, Shreveport District, on the death of his sister, Mrs. Nettie Galloway Nerney, who died August 9. Funeral services were held August 12 in New Orleans.

Correction

The August 8 issue of the Review named Rev. William Trice as founding pastor of University Methodist Church in Baton Rouge. Rev. Benedict Galloway was actually the founding pastor. Rev. Trice took over the ministry shortly after it started and was pastor for over 25 years.

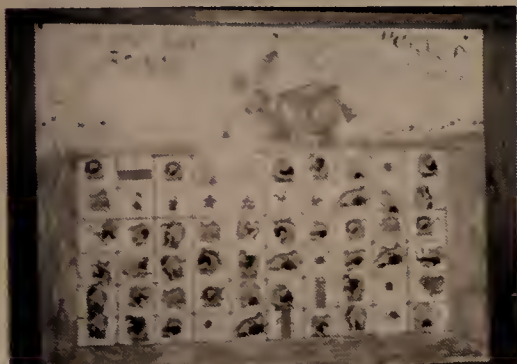


AROUND THE CONFERENCE



Events

Picture your church
news here..
Send news and
photos (color okay) to:
Bobbie Armstrong
Editor
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



Boy earns bunny money for Ark

Children at Grace United Methodist Church in Ruston have been helping to fill Heifer Project International's Ark, which is \$5,000 worth of animals to be distributed to 30 families worldwide.

The poster above shows how one ambitious six year old, Brandon Black, single-handedly adopted a bunny for the Ark. He used this poster to keep track of the money he earned doing chores every day for his mom.

Brandon and his Sunday schoolmates are learning the value of helping others.

Community Center will celebrate 75 years

Peoples United Methodist Community Center in New Orleans will celebrate its 75th anniversary Sunday, October 12 at 3 p.m.

Bishop Dan E. Solomon will be the guest speaker. The theme will be "Making a Difference in the Lives of Young Children. Call (504) 522-1249 for details.

First UMC of Baker hosts 1997 Missions Conference

The First United Methodist Church of Baker held its annual Missions Conference August 1-3. Guest speakers for the event were David and Carol Cosby with the Oriental Missionary Society and Robert Hunt with the General Board of Global Ministries. Guest attendees were Sam and Janie Burch, Louisiana Conference Mission coordinators.

The Cosby family has recently returned to their home office in Greenwood, Ind., after spending 5 years in Budapest, Hungary. Their mission involved church planting as well as working with young adults in military camps and teaching in the seminary.

Hunt, who has had a covenant relationship with the Baker church for a number of years, has been teaching at the UMC Seminary in Singapore for four years. He reported that evangelism is prospering in that part of the world. The church he attended holds 11 services each Sunday.



Live Oak UMC breaks ground for Family Life Center

Three generations of the Warren Foster family took part in recent groundbreaking ceremonies for a new Family Life Center at Live Oak UMC in Watson. Pictured above are (left to right) Latonia Roberts, son Colt Roberts and Mrs. Lillian Foster.

Pastor Mark E. Crosby led a responsive reading and prayer service and small children placed portions of the turned dirt in zip-lock bags as mementos of the occasion. The facility is expected to be completed near the end of December.

Conference Program Calendar

August

22-23 Louisiana Conference Youth Worker Training, Conference Center
24 Christian Education Sunday
28-30 Disciple Bible Study Training, Baton Rouge
30 CCYM Meeting, Louisiana Conference Center

September

5-7 UMW Training for Dean/Assistant Dean, Scarrit-Bennett Center, Nashville
9-10 Town & Country Fall Retreat, Uskichitto Retreat Center
18 UMW Conference Executive Committee
18-21 Wade Kalros #4
19-20 UMW Conference Annual Meeting
22-23 Cabinet Meeting
25-28 Mens #7 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
25-28 Cursillo #60, Conference Center
27 Fall Convocation, Newman UMC, Alexandria

October

9-12 Women's #8 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
10-12 South Central Jurisdictional Singles Training Event, Mount Sequoyah
14 Cabinet Meeting
24-25 UMW District Elected Leaders' Training, Conference Center
27-28 *Order of Elders Meeting, Conference Center, 12-noon to 12-noon

*Note: This has been moved from September 8-9.

Upcoming Workshops . . .

"Parent/child Relationship"

Learn to listen and talk with your child as you help in his/her spiritual journey. Led by Dr. Laurabeth Hicks--August 30, 9 a.m. to noon. Wesley UMC, 544 Government Street, Baton Rouge. Call (504) 343-8421.

"Up With Parents"

Learn how to boost kids' self-esteem with Dr. Larry Koenig, acclaimed author and humorist. September 10, 7-9 p.m. Munholland UMC, 1209 Metairie Road, Metairie. Call (504) 834-9910.

Animal ministry visits First UMC, Shreveport

Oblivious to the summer heat, hundreds of people (mostly kids) enjoyed a presentation of the Thank God for Kids ministry at First UMC, Shreveport on June 30.

The hour-long production features rare Siberian tigers, a panther, a leopard, a bear, a camel named Sadie (pictured below) and others. The tame, homeless animals live on a game preserve and are cared for by the Richmond, Va.-based ministry. Once a year, they travel around the country briefly to take



The Times/JIM HIUDELSO

part in Christian outreach to 50,000 children. The animals do not perform, but illustrate God's love for children.



Bayou Campers 'rally' in Connecticut

Six members of Louisiana's Bayou State Chapter #15 of the Camping Methodists attended the National Camping Methodists Rally held July 9-13 at Mineral Springs Campground in Stafford Springs, Conn.

Pictured above are (back row, left to right) Bob and Johnette Ney, Lake Charles; (front row, left to right) Winona and Jack Cochran, Bunkie, and granddaughter Rachel Wheatley, Baton Rouge; Betty and Warren Tripp, Lafayette.

Bayou State officers will be installed at their August (28-30) Campout in Ragley, La. Officers are: Ruth Brown, president; Dale and Doris Brummett, wagon masters; Ed Dilsaver, treasurer; Betty Tripp, secretary.

Anyone with an interest in camping is invited to join the Camping Methodist group to share in fun, fellowship and food. Contact Betty Tripp at (318) 232-2026 for more information.

Morningside UMC to celebrate Golden Anniversary

On September 7, Morningside UMC in Shreveport will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Rev. J. J. Caraway, former pastor, will preside over the 10:50 a.m. service which will be followed by lunch, a song service and opening of a cornerstone.

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Deadline for:
September 5 issue--August 25
September 19--September 8

Children in Need Called Session: Register today

Are you registered to learn how to make a difference in a child's life? The October 4th Called Session of the 1997 Annual Conference focused on the Bishops' Initiative on Children in Need will be held at Louisiana College in Pineville from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please register as soon as possible. Everyone is welcome. Local church pastors have registration forms. *There is no charge for the conference or lunch.* Child care for children (six weeks to 8th grade) will be provided for \$15 for the day; pastors also have registration forms for child care. Call (318) 869-4568 for details. See Page 2 for childcare details.

Maybe you're thinking, "What can I do? My church is too small to have any kind of meaningful outreach to children." We offer the following passage from child advocate Marian Wright Edelman's book *Guide My Feet*:

"Light Your Small Candle"

So many people feel so overwhelmed and disempowered by the stresses of modern life that they convince themselves they can't make a difference. So, they don't even try. They bury their talents in the ground and let their spirits wither on the vine of life. I hope they will bestir themselves at least to say every day as an anonymous old man did: "I don't have the answers, life is not easy, but my heart is in the right place."

It is so important not to let ourselves off the hook or to become apathetic or cynical by telling ourselves that nothing works or makes a difference. Every day, light your small candle. Tutor or mentor or speak to or smile at that one child--your own or one you teach or serve in some way...

The inaction and action of many human beings over a long time contributed to the crises our children face, and it is the action and struggle of many human beings over time that will solve them--with God's help. So every day, light your small candle. It might just be the one that sparks the movement to save our children's and nation's future.

Come get your match Oct. 4.

Louisiana VIM program shifting into high gear

by Bobbie Armstrong
Review Editor

There's something about helping others in need that shows us God and gives our own lives real meaning. That's why a successful lawyer from Oklahoma City recently traveled to a poverty stricken village in Mexico and spent the weekend holding villagers' heads while a volunteer dentist gave them much needed dental care. Contrary to its name, there are no dentists or sophisticated dental chairs in Nuevo



Alonzo Campbell (l) and Larry Norman (r) lead Louisiana VIM into a new phase.

Progresso, Mexico.

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) makes possible this exchange between the needy and those willing to help. While VIM has been active in the Louisiana for the last 10 years, it is about to move into a new era as a result of the restructuring of the Louisiana Conference approved at Annual Conference

1997 which brought VIM under Special Ministries.

Dr. Alonzo Campbell is now Conference Coordinator for VIM and, along with Rev. Larry Norman, pastor of Evangeline UMC in Baton Rouge, who has led the VIM Conference Task Force for the last four years as its chair, has plans to grow and expand the good works and outreach which the Louisiana Conference's VIM has already begun.

VIM changes the lives of everyone involved, as Dr. Campbell witnessed when he accompanied the Oklahoma Conference VIM on their recent trip to Nuevo Progresso. During the two-day trip which served 200 people, he witnessed people receiving medical treatment whom might otherwise suffer and die. One small boy wracked with infection had bedsores two inches high all over his body. Another young boy has learned to walk as a result of these volunteer medical professionals and translators, he says.

"In the scorching August heat," Dr. Campbell says, "we learned that God can use anybody to share the love of Jesus Christ."

The Louisiana Conference VIM leadership team of Campbell and Norman will be working to add more conference-sponsored



A small boy learned to walk as a result of VIM coming to his village in Mexico.

trips and getting more Louisiana United Methodists involved in VIM trips.

"We believe the Louisiana Conference can support 150 VIM trips per year and we are working toward making that happen," says Norman.

"You can make a Christian difference in your own life as well as others," says Dr. Campbell. "We invite you to come and share the love of Jesus Christ through Louisiana Conference-sponsored mission trips. (Please see list of upcoming trips below.)"

So, reserve space on your calendar for a VIM trip. It might change your life, or maybe just your view on apportionment, as one Oklahoma doctor reported:

"I feel differently about apportionment now that I have actually seen apportionment money at work helping people."

Conference Youth Director announced

Carolyn Dove, Conference director of Youth Ministry and Camping from 1988 to 1994, has been named as Conference Youth Director.

Carolyn will leave her position as director of Christian Education at University UMC in Baton Rouge to take the part-time youth director position created by the Conference restructuring approved at the Annual Conference in June.

"I am a follower of Jesus Christ," Carolyn says. "I make no bold promises of everything happening with no hitches. What I do promise is to serve the Lord and the youth of the Louisiana Conference and to always keep myself focused on the

Lord's direction, not my own."

Carolyn is certified as an associate in Youth Ministry in The United Methodist Church. She is married and has two children and one grandchild.

"Our Conference youth and adults will be richly blessed by Caroline's return to this position," says Leslie Akin, Conference Director of Gospel Communication. "Her deep faith, open mind, capacity to dream and follow through, as well as her uncanny ability to deal with details and discern red flags make Caroline a gift wherever she is. We're just glad that it's here with us!"



Carolyn Dove

VIM EVENTS in 1997

September

Honduras
Bolivia (South Central Jurisdictional)

October

Heifer Project International, Arkansas
Team Leader Training--Sager Brown
Cuba

December

Russia

Ongoing Events

District trips to Sager Brown for home repair
Trips to churches in La. for repairs

Call Dr. Alonzo Campbell for information at 1-888-239-5286.

Conference Office announces toll-free number

The Louisiana Conference Office has a new toll-free phone number:

1-888-239-5286.



Bishop Dan E. Solomon

Being and Doing



Taking Strong Steps for 75 Percent

We are approaching the second "apportionment benchmark" of September 30 with a significant increase compared to last year. Apportionment giving is running over 4 percent ahead and the increase has been steadily gaining. We have much reason to be encouraged.

I am very inspired by the way clergy and laity are giving such positive leadership to increase apportionment giving in the Louisiana Conference. Our clergy are telling the story of mission and transformation. Essentially, apportionments are "stories of love and care in the name of Christ." Mission work and missionaries are supported by our "portion meant for others." Children are fed and educated in Christ's name because we support apportionments. Youth otherwise unable to attend college, some to prepare for the vocation of a pastor, are helped through apportionments. Retired clergy who have served faithfully, often on modest salaries, experience the conference's continued gratitude and support through pension apportionments.

Apportionment stories are as endless as the number of persons whose lives are touched by the sharing and giving of faithful United Methodist people and congregations.

Our laity are taking increased initiatives to ensure their congregation becomes a 100 percent church. In a recent conversation with the lay leader of a congregation, this witness was shared with me: "When we quit thinking about and fussing so much over little

Apportionments are the means by which United Methodism collectively addresses a "sin sick world" to make it healthy again in Jesus' name.

things in our church and started helping others we got a lot healthier." The lay leader went on to say, "If all you think about is yourself, it will make you sick."

Helping others become "well" in the name of Christ helps us to become healthy as people and congregations. Apportionments have always been a "wellness" initiative. United Methodists have never been content to permit hunger to go unaddressed, suffering to be ignored, unsaved persons to remain persons unclaimed by the church for new life in Christ. Apportionments connect congregations with mission fields in Louisiana and around the world. Apportionments are the means by which United Methodism collectively addresses a "sin sick world" to make it healthy again in Jesus' name.

Now is the time for us to take strong steps to ensure that each congregation meets the September 30 benchmark in successful fashion. At the end of September we will be 75 percent of the way through the 1997 calendar year. By having 75 percent of their apportionments paid on September 30, congregations will be on track for the 100 percent payment of their connectional ministries by December 31, 1997.

At the end of 1996, apportionment giving in the Louisiana Conference surpassed 90 percent, our highest percentage in over a decade. With the percentage increase already achieved at mid-year, we have every reason to set our sights on a 95 percent pay-out for 1997. Of course, this will mean that every church must commit itself to being a 100-percent church in order to allow for those few churches that do not quite reach their full goal.

Apportionments are not just line items on a page or figures in a column. Rather, our "portions meant for others" are stories of hope and help in Jesus' name. Apportionments are United Methodism's mission life-line. They are missionary support. They are daily bread and daily blessing. Apportionments are doorways through which congregations walk to be connected to people for whom Christ is possibility and power. Let us join together to make the September 30 benchmark a clear witness to apportionment faithfulness.

Dan E. Solomon

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE CENTER: A Methodist Center for Spiritual Renewal

Meeting rooms available at no charge

The Louisiana Conference Center: a United Methodist Center for Spiritual Renewal in Woodworth, La. (approximately 10 miles from Alexandria) has been officially opened for eight months. "The number of meetings scheduled and the number of people coming to the center is rapidly growing," says Harry H. Gardner, executive director.

Gardner offers the following statistics as of August 24: Overnight individual rooms sold--3,237; percentages for groups staying overnight--12 percent church friends, 16 percent corporate, 10 percent government, 2 percent independent school, and 60 percent United Methodist membership. The week of August 18-22 a total of 1,690 meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) were served, the most ever.

One of the most significant questions to come before the Board of Trustees of the Conference Center, Gardner says, has been how to provide meeting space for our own membership (United Methodists) with limited funds. The board decided to make four meeting rooms available for the membership at

no charged, based on availability.

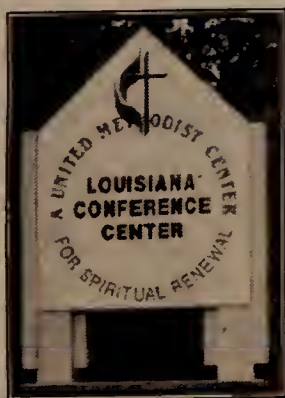
So, if your group is feeling the need for trees and you are the meeting planner, call the center between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and check on the availability of these rooms. Each can accommodate 25-30 nature-loving meeting goers and it is recommended that you schedule your meeting at a time when you can also enjoy one of the Conference

Center's great meals. Complimentary meeting rooms are also provided when overnight stays and meals are part of a group's plans.

Book your rooms soon, though; everyone in the state is going there--even Gov. Mike Foster who addressed the South Rapides Parish service clubs at the Conference Center on September 4.

Also, Gardner reminds everyone it is not too early to start thinking about (and booking) your Christmas celebrations at the Conference Center. Call them at 1-318-449-4500 and the staff will work with you to create a festive and unique holiday retreat or celebration.

Isn't it time to visit those trees?



AN IDEA THAT WORKS

Local discount store sells tennis shoes at low price

Rev. Mike McLaurin, pastor of First UMC in New Iberia, found a great way to get lots of tennis shoes for the Conference's tennis shoe drive for children in need in Africa. Churches throughout Louisiana are collecting the tennis shoes to bring to the Children in Need Called Session of the 1997 Annual Conference in Pineville on October 4.

A member of the church called a local Kmart to see how many pairs of tennis shoes he could buy for the amount of money the church had, Rev. McLaurin reports. The shoe department manager told him she was about to put an overstock of tennis shoes on sale and sold them to the church for \$1.50 a pair. They ended up with 121 pairs of tennis shoes!

"I would urge churches to check with local Kmart or other discount chains to see if they have any tennis shoes they are willing to sell at a low price," the pastor says. "We both benefit from the sale."

Child Care Expanded for Children in Need Called Session

Due to popular demand, child care for the Children in Need Called Session October 4 in Pineville has been extended from age six to include children ages six weeks through eighth grade.

The following list specifies location for child care according to age:

Infants (6 weeks through crawlers)--First UMC, Pineville
Toddlers through 1st grade--First UMC, Alexandria
Second through eighth grade--Horseshoe Drive UMC, Alexandria.

The cost is \$15 per child. If possible, please send a lunch; lunches may also be purchased for an additional \$3. Local church pastors have registration forms.

Please register your child by September 15. You may pay at the door or in advance. Make checks payable to FUMC Alexandria; mail to 2727 Jackson Street, Alexandria, LA 71301.

Note: children singing in a choir are not expected to pay for child care or lunch.

Please call Rev. Juliet P. Deschner (FUMC, Alexandria) at (318) 443-5696 to register.



Jury awards damages to UM minister

by Bobbie Armstrong
Review Editor

In less than one day's deliberations, a 4th District jury in Monroe found St. Paul's UMC in Monroe and its former pastor, Rev. Odell Simmons, innocent of any wrongdoing in a sexual harassment, defamation, and wrongful dismissal suit brought against the minister, the church and the Conference by the church's former choir director, Marian Steed.

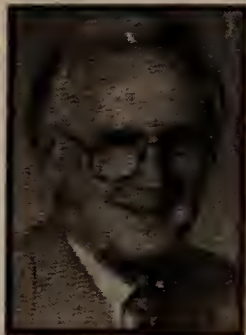
In addition, the jury of eight women and four men, ruling in a counter-suit filed by the minister, ordered Mrs. Steed to pay Rev. Simmons \$90,000 (plus court costs and interest) in damages for defamation of his character.

The Conference (deemed to be one entity with the Monroe District) was completely dismissed from the case by the judge in pre-trial motions, according to Conference Attorney Ben Marshall.

Mrs. Steed filed a complaint of sexual harassment against Rev. Simmons with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1991. In 1992, Mrs. Steed's position was eliminated in a multi-positional layoff by St. Paul's who was downsizing because of a drop in attendance and revenue. When the position was reinstated, Mrs. Steed did not reapply for the position, according to St. Paul's officials.

Mrs. Steed originally filed the lawsuit decided on August 21 in 1993 alleging that she was fired because of the sexual harassment charges she had filed against Rev. Simmons. Rev. Simmons filed the countersuit in 1994, he says, to clear his name (and thereby The United Methodist Church as it relates to this case) and has accumulated personal legal expenses which he says exceed \$160,000, some of which may be eligible for reimbursement from the Clergy Defense Fund apportionment established at Annual Conference in 1994.

Rev. Simmons, pastor of Aurora UMC in New Orleans for the last six years, has been a United Methodist minister for 47 years, serving as District Superintendent of the Shreveport District from 1982-88 and dean of the cabinet in 1988. He received an honorary doctorate degree from Centenary College in Shreveport in 1980. He and his wife Dorothy have been married for 42 years and have three grown children and three grandchildren.



Rev. Odell Simmons

An UMCOR Report

What happens to the tennis shoes?

The question came up: What happens to the tennis shoes once they get to Africa? How do we know they're not going straight to the black market like we have heard happens?

With everyone in the Louisiana Conference focused on collecting new tennis shoes for children in Africa who need them to walk great distances without cutting their feet, the *Review* thought this a pertinent point. So we checked it out with UMCOR's Wendy Whitesides at the Program Management office in New York.

Wendy says that as good stewards of gifts given by everyone, UMCOR sends the tennis shoes to local churches in Africa. They know the people and their needs and these churches are responsible for distributing whatever is sent. They sort them and even put ribbons on them so they'll look like gifts and then disseminate the shoes in the most equitable means, she says.

"These are gifts; after they are given, we don't control the outcome," she says. "The individual receiving it is responsible for that. If they do end up on the black market, it is probably because they needed the money for something else, like baby formula."

We hope this answers the question. Wendy also says the response and generosity so far has been amazing.

In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

the wife and family of Rev. Robert Crichlow (retired, Shreveport District) on his death August 16. A memorial service was held August 19 in Shreveport.

Rev. Idella Stevenson, pastor of Godman UMC in Baldwin, on the death of her great-uncle and childhood guardian, Mr. Earl Bruce Stevenson, on August 13. The funeral and burial was in Baldwin.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Reger (retired, Shreveport District) on the death of their son Mark on August 17. The funeral was held August 21 in Hondo, Texas.

Rev. and Mrs. Ryan Horton on the death of their young granddaughter, Laura Michelle St. Martin on August 24. Her parents are Guy and Revere St. Martin, members of St. Timothy on the North Shore UMC in Mandeville. The funeral was held August 26. Memorials in Laura's name may be sent to St. Timothy UMC's Memorial Prayer Garden.

Rev. Ken Jacocks, pastor of Wesley Chapel, North Shore District, and his family on the death of his great-nephew, Chip Cavin, on August 26. Rev. Jacocks presided at the funeral on August 29.

PRAISE and WORSHIP

Seeking spiritual renewal, participants come from all over the world to experience a warming of the heart.

Aldersgate '97 teaches United Methodists to soar

by Bobbie Armstrong
Review Editor

Aldersgate '97, an annual conference on the Holy Spirit sponsored by Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, held in Dayton, Ohio, July 23-27 offered the 1,900 United Methodist attending (including many from Louisiana) a means to "Soar Like an Eagle"—the theme of this year's conference—and "catch the wind of the Spirit."

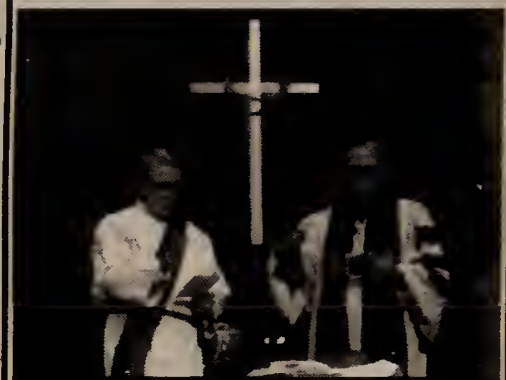
In an atmosphere of joy and encouragement, many came for spiritual renewal—for the warming of the heart which John Wesley himself felt on Aldersgate Street many years ago—and found it in the culturally diverse praise and worship services, strong biblical preachings and 60 plus workshops.

The conference culminated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning which this year was led by Bishop Hae-Jong Kim (New York West Area). "In a true spirit of worship, expressive worship dancers 'set the table,' and the awesome presence of the Lord manifested as all partook of this divine means of grace," said a conference official.

Many amazing things happen in this environment of praise and worship. Louisiana participants report how a



Aldersgate youth sing Friday night.



Bishop Hae-Jong Kim (r) leads the Sunday morning Lord's Supper service with ARM Director Rev. Gary Moore.

woman felt led by God to deliver a message to the attendees during the Thursday night program. She asked the leader if she could speak and call for the offering. After she delivered the message of her heart, the offering was made. The next day, officials announced that \$28,000 had been collected—the usual amount collected was \$3,500.

Aldersgate is a family conference with excellent teaching programs for youth and children of all ages, officials say.

Among the participants from Louisiana who shared their experiences with the *Review* were Letty Strawbridge and Carol Civils, members of Broadmoor UMC in Baton Rouge. Carol has been going to Aldersgate conferences since 1980 and says she continues to go to be "encouraged by the teachings and exuberant worship." Letty says the experience, "where everything is drenched in prayer," helps her mature in her faith.

Aldersgate '98 will be held at the Dallas-Fort Worth Hyatt Hotel (at the airport) in Texas. For more information, contact Aldersgate Renewal Ministries at (615) 851-9192.

New book helps children worship

A new book just published by Discipleship Resources (a publishing arm of the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship) will help prepare children to participate more fully in congregational worship.

Children Worship! by Mary Jane Pierce Norton is designed to help children ages five through eight learn

how to participate more fully in worship and to understand the words and actions used in the worship service.

It is a thirteen-session study that may be used in a variety of settings—after school programs, Sunday morning programs, or a weekend retreat.

Children Worship! (order #DR223) is available for \$21.95 from Discipleship Resources, P.O. Box 6996, Alpharetta, GA 30009. Phone: 1-800-685-4370 or fax: 770-442-9742.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Events

Picture your church
news here..
Send news and photos
(color okay) to:
Bobbie Armstrong
Editor
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

YOUTH + SUMMER = ACTION

Sneakered Seekers search out Wesley

The "Sneakered Seekers," an elementary-aged discipleship group at First UMC in Natchitoches have had a busy summer making school supply bags for children in Mexico, doing good things for others and traveling to Georgia to see first-hand the birthplace of Methodism in America.



The group, pictured above at John Wesley's statue in Savannah, believes that "like the child who was willing to give his loaves and fishes to Jesus, our offerings to Him will be blessed and miracles will happen in the lives of people."

The "Sneakered Seekers" are currently seriously seeking sneakers for the October 4 Children in Need Called Session in Pineville.



Youth in mission to OIMC

Nine youths from several districts came together this summer on a work mission to the Oklahoma Indian Mission Conference in Preston, Ok., and accomplished as much as a group of fifty, Oklahoma officials said.

The kids, pictured above demolishing a pavilion that had collapsed in a storm, also installed a gas line, constructed a gazebo and painted a tabernacle floor.

Team leader Rev. David Carlton (Clay-Quitman UMC) invites everyone to join the group next year in Christ's service.



A CAMP team inspects a porch prior to building a wheel chair ramp for the house's occupant.

Youth shine light of hope through missions

by Ann M. McMurphy

(excerpts from the *American Press*)

Year after year, United Methodists and their adult leaders from Louisiana LAMP (Local Aid Mission Project) take the Kinder area by storm. Within a four-day period, they move from project to project, working not only on the homes of the clients, but on their spirits as well.

"The main focus of what we do is spiritual," said Rev. Tracy MacKenzie, associate minister of Henning Memorial UMC in Sulphur and LAMP Camp dean. "The work is secondary. We are showing God's love for others."

Conference Program Calendar

September

5-7 UMW Training for Dean/Assistant Dean, Scarrit-Bennett Center, Nashville
9-10 Town & Country Fall Retreat, Uskichitto Retreat Center
18 UMW Conference Executive Committee
18-21 Wade Kairos #4
19-20 UMW Conference Annual Meeting
22-23 Cabinet Meeting
25-28 Mens #7 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
25-28 Cursillo #60, Conference Center
27 Fall Convocation, Conference Center

October

4 Children in Need Called Session of the Annual Conference, Louisiana College, Pineville
9-12 Women's #8 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
10-12 South Central Jurisdictional Singles Training Event, Mount Sequoyah
14 Cabinet Meeting
24-25 UMW District Elected Leaders' Training, Conference Center
27-28 *Order of Elders Meeting, Conference Center, 12-noon to 12-noon

*Note: This has been moved from September 8-9.

November

1-8 Council of Bishops
13-14 Cabinet Meeting
13-16 St. Gabriel Kairos #6
20-23 Cursillo #61, Conference Center
21-23 UMW Leadership Development Event, Chicago

Upcoming Workshops . . .

Gather 'round the Fire! a
"hands-on" Praise and Worship
Workshop

Saturday, October 18--Broadmoor UMC, 10230 Mollylea Drive, Baton Rouge 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$30, includes lunch. Led by "Hearts AFlame" Praise and Worship team and Rev. Martin Corie Sessions will feature music, drama, liturgical dance
Call (504) 924-6269 or 923-3259 to register.

Travel, anyone?

Educational Opportunities is offering Familiarization Trips (FAM) to ministers interested in traveling or getting a travel group together.

FAM tours planned are:

Holy Land	Nov. and Dec 97
England	Nov. 97
France	Nov. 97
Turkey	Feb. 98
Greece (Paul)	Feb. 98

Call Rev. and Mrs. Ira Robinson at (318) 989-8954 for information.

UMCOR boxes: Food on the way



Shreveport District responds to North Korean emergency

The Shreveport District responded to the North Korean famine emergency by giving each church in the district a fair share goal of boxes to be filled depending on the size of the church.

District Superintendent Bobby Potter reports that 43 churches filled 227 boxes which were loaded on the truck (pictured above) August 1. The remaining churches will deliver their boxes during the District's VIM workcamp in Oct.



On August 10, twenty members of the Berwick First UMC (above) got together and packed four UMCOR boxes of life-sustaining items for the North Korean emergency.

Each member received a bookmark which said, "I was there Sunday," and were "very excited knowing the boxes would feed 20 people."

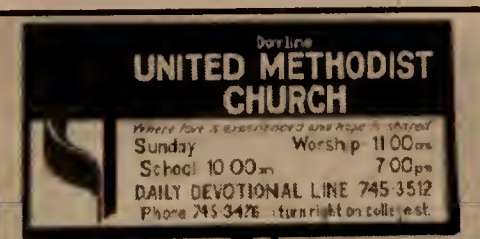
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Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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DEADLINE FOR:
September 19 Issue--September 8
October 3 Issue--September 22



Doyline UMC (Ruston District) has a new sign on the highway as you enter Doyline as well as a new sign on the front of the building. The signs are among many new improvements at the church.

Evangeline-Genesis merger service

Evangeline-Genesis UMC, Baton Rouge, will have a merger celebration service September 14 at 11 a.m. Bishop Dan Solomon is the featured guest.



LOUISIANA

United Methodist

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Edition

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VOLUME 14 NUMBER 20

018000 Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

September 19, 1997

Everyday in the United States

- 3 children die from abuse or neglect.
- 6 children commit suicide.
- 13 children are homicide victims.
- 16 children are killed by firearms.
- 87 infants die.
- 316 children are arrested for violent crimes.
- 403 children are arrested for drug abuse.
- 466 children are born to mothers who had late or no prenatal care.
- 788 children are born at low birth-weight.
- 1,420 children are born to teen mothers.
- 1,788 children are born without health insurance.
- 2,556 children are born into poverty.
- 3,356 children drop out of high school every school day.
- 3,533 children are born to unwed mothers.
- 5,702 children are arrested.
- 8,523 children are reported abused or neglected.
- 100,000 children are homeless.
- 10 million have no health insurance.
- 14.7 million live in poverty.

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND
The State of America's Children
Yearbook 1997

Reprinted from *Alive Now* (July/August '97
Issue)

When a child is in need: Will we make a difference?

by Bobbie Armstrong
Review Editor

BATON ROUGE-- Everyday, around the world, in the United States and in Louisiana, a precious resource--our children-- live in poverty and need. While the statistics of physical poverty such as hunger, violence, and death are staggering, poverty of the spirit--not measurable in numbers--is even more devastating. And, it affects everyone, impoverished and affluent alike.

On October 4, the Louisiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will hold a Special Session on Children in Need at Louisiana College in Pineville, La., to arm its 562 local churches with inspiration and tools to make a difference in the lives of impoverished children in Louisiana.

The daylong conference, focused on early childhood issues, will feature a unique worship service conducted entirely by children age 8-12 including a choir (and signing choir), children's orchestra, and performance of an African Grief Dance. Keynote speaker Mary T. Previte, nationally recognized authority on juvenile delinquency and author of *Hungry Ghosts* will talk

about "How to Change the Shape of Your Mountain." Previte, great-granddaughter of Hudson Taylor who was a pioneering mis-



Photo by Lisa McPhilly

Preschoolers Rashana Felders and LaQuita Ennis wait for their teenage moms to pick them up after school at the YWCA Teen Parenting Center in Baton Rouge. The collaborative program features spiritual elements and is housed at the UM Mission Center on Winbourne Avenue.

sionary in China in 1851, spent three years as a child in a Japanese concentration camp. Twenty six workshops, led by experts in the various topics offered, including addiction, art therapy, and adoption, will address the needs of children and ways local churches can meet them. Many of the workshops have curricula which have been specifically written for this event which will be distributed to attendees free of charge.

The Special Session also will be the culmination of a five-month Conference-wide drive to collect new tennis shoes for children in Africa who have to walk long distances to meet basic survival needs. Without shoes, the African children often cut their feet and become ill or die from infections. An estimated 4-5,000 pairs of shoes will be collected in a tractor trailer at the conference and taken to the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) depot in Baldwin, La., for distribution to churches in Africa.

This "turnaround day in Louisiana Methodism" is open to anyone (laity and clergy) hoping to minister to children, regardless of denomination.

Please see *Child*, page 3.

A LOOK INSIDE

'Children in Need' Special Session

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to know about the
Special Session

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Interview with
keynote speaker

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PLUS . . .

Around the Conference

Page 4



Bishop Dan E. Solomon



Being and Doing

A Special Session Called for Children

The Special Session of the Louisiana Conference, October 4, at Louisiana College, in Pineville, will provide every local congregation, as well as lay and clergy leadership, the inspiration and information needed to implement the Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty.

Ordained members of the Conference and every local congregation's lay delegates will gather, along with thousands of lay representatives from our churches to focus on ministries with and for

children, especially children who are victimized by poverty, abuse, and neglect. Since every church is expected to bring a large delegation, attendance at the Special Session will likely reach four to five

thousand persons.

It is important for us to gather with a sense of concern. Louisiana's children are at risk. Too many of our children are without positive influences in their lives. Not only are economic resources scant, but mentors and role models are in far too short a supply for many children's emotional and spiritual maturity. Such children live all around our churches. They often pass by our buildings or even play in open spaces near where we gather to worship, to experience love and support and to find help for daily living. These children are so near, yet so far away.

Our concern is not only for the children all around us. Our concern is also for the absence of children among us. Over one-fourth of Louisiana's United Methodist churches cannot report a single child related to the congregation. Add to that the almost one-fourth of our churches who can report only from one (1) to ten

Please see *Bishop*, page 3.

'Children in Need' Special Session

October 4, 1997

Everything you need to know



Workshops

Everyone will attend two workshops. Workshop I will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. (box lunches will be served). Workshop II will last from 1:45 to 3 p.m. Choose two when pre-registering. If a workshop is full, you will be assigned to another. Following are workshops being offered and conveners:

Focus: Early Childhood Issues

- 1) Connecting With Children Around the World--Joy Solomon
- 2) Ministries with the Disabled Child--Judy and Terry Willis
- 3) The Church's Response to Children Facing the Risks of Addictions (Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol, Gambling)--Fred and Ann Wideman
- 4) Ministries with Troubled and Incarcerated Children--Terrel DeVille
- 5) Pastoral Care in the Adoption Journey--So You Want to Adopt--Network for Adoption--Gary and Amy Willis
- 6) Ministering with Abused and Neglected Children/Foster Care--Doug Ezell
- 7) Creativity with Art that Creates Healing and Growth--A New Curriculum Approach--Hope Norman
- 8) Life Skills, Social Skills, Community Skills for Healing and Growth--A Community Outreach Plan--Norma and Robert Ed Taylor
- 9) Making Disciples of Children--Jon Tellifero and Don Avery
- 10) The Media, Children and the Church--Leslie Akin

Children and Poverty and the Church

- 11) Local Church Initiatives through Comprehensive and Direct Services-- C.J. Guillory
- 12) Christmas Ministries--No Child Left Out--Carolyn Dove
- 13) Congregations: Here's How Regarding Housing--Jerry Hilbun and Freddie Banks
- 14) Compassionate Congregations and the Special Learning Needs of Disadvantaged Children--Dr. Anita Crump and Leroy Crump
- 15) Building Strong Families--Arnold and Doris Brown

Child Care Issues

- 16) So You Want to Begin a Weekly Early Childhood Education Program--Bobby and Joan Potter
- 17) Enhancing Your Church's Early Childhood Program--Joyce Hazel
- 18) Tutorial Programs--A Connection for All Ages--Ann Rhoads
- 19) Organized Recreation Programs--Affirming and Developing Children--Freddie Henderson
- 20) Special Needs of the Urban Child and the Church's Response--Nick Evans
- 21) Special Needs of the Rural Child and the Church's Response--Darryl Tate
- 22) Deciding On Your Community's Needs: Organizing Ministry--Chuck Simmons
- 23) Health Issues of Children and the Role of the Church--Sam Holliday
- 24) Special Needs of Atypical and Gifted and Talented Children and the Role of the Church--Judy and Larry O'Dell
- 25) Camping Options--Leisure Activities for Children--Mark and Terrie Crosby
- 26) Counseling Terminally Ill Children--Dr. Robin Bennett

Children's Worship Service:

This will be a one-of-a kind service led entirely by children ages 8-12.

The Children's Choir will include approximately ten children from each district and a Children's Signing Choir as well. Some songs will be original compositions.

Many readings and a liturgical African Grief Dance to "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" will be performed.

A youth orchestra of students from Alexandria area schools will provide accompaniment.

Important Notes:

Emergency Phone Numbers at Special Session:

(318) 452-9700 or (318) 452-9701

Watch for volunteers with "Ask Me" badges. They can answer your questions.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Soft drinks, coffee and donuts will be on sale during registration beginning at 8 a.m. *Hungry Ghosts*, Mary Previte's book will be on sale for \$8.

Tote bags with the Special Session logo will be available for \$17.

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Louisiana College
Pineville, LA

Directions:

Coming N. or S. on I-49, take the Pineville Expwy. exit. Go to LA 28 exit. Turn left; go thru underpass. A school will be on the right. Go a block and a half. Turn left onto Donahue Ferry Rd.; go three blocks to the entrance to Louisiana College.

Coming from Ruston, Hwy. 167 will become the Pineville Expwy. Exit at LA 28 E; turn right and proceed as above turning onto Donahue Ferry Rd.

Coming from Monroe on Hwy. 165, turn left on to the Pineville Expwy. Exit at LA 28 E; turn right and follow the directions above to Donahue Ferry Rd.

Child Care:

Available for children ages six weeks through 8th grade. Please pre-register.

Locations by age group:

Infants (6 weeks through crawlers)--
First UMC, Pineville (318) 443-0426.
Toddlers through 1st grade--First UMC, Alexandria (318) 443-5696.
Second through eighth grade--
Horseshoe Drive UMC, Alexandria. (318) 443-5696.

The cost is \$15 per child plus \$3 lunch (or send lunch). Call (318) 443-5696 to register. Local churches have forms.

Hotels :

Several hotels in the Pineville area are offering a special rate for attendees. Please state that you are attending The United Methodist Special Session when you call to make reservations. Hotel/motel names and phone numbers follow:

Bentley Hotel (318) 448-9600	Motel 6 (318) 445-2336
Days Inn (318) 443-7331	Ramada Inn (318) 443-2561
Hampton Inn (318) 487-8500	Rode Way Inn (318) 448-1611
Howard Johnson (318) 442-5190	Sportsman Lodge (318) 445-6541
LaQuinta Inn (318) 442-3700	

Agenda:

8 a.m. Registration	12:00 Workshop I
9:30 Opening	1:30 pm Transit to Workshop II
10:15 Worship Led by Children	1:45 Workshop II
11:00 Plenary Address--Mary Previte	3:00 Transit to Plenary
11:45 Transit to Workshop I	3:15 Plenary and Sending Forth--Bishop Dan Solomon
	4:00 Adjourn

Registration:

Please, please, please pre-register. Local church pastors have registration forms. It will aid the planning process and you will pick the workshops you'll attend. *However, no one will be turned away on October 4, so bring a friend or neighbor who wants to come at the last moment.*

The day of the Special Session, please arrive early. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. The opening worship service will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

If you have pre-registered, follow signs to your district to receive your packet. If you have not pre-registered, follow the signs on-site. You will be assigned two workshops.

Fee:

There will be a \$5 charge for attending the Special Session. This will cover lunch. The money will be collected during Workshop I.

Tennis Shoe Collection:

We are expecting *thousands* of pairs of tennis shoes to be brought to the Special Session which will be taken to the UMCOR depot in Baldwin for delivery to churches in Africa for suffering children.

This is how it will work:

A tractor-trailer truck will be parked on the premises. Each church will load *all* of its collected tennis shoes onto the truck, *except for one (1) pair* to be carried inside for an offering ceremony during the worship service. *Please note: that's one pair of shoes per church, not per person.*

IMPORTANT SHOE REMINDERS!

1) *Count and record* the number of shoes your church is delivering so we can announce a total amount without having to unload the truck.

2) Tennis shoes must be *NEW*. UMCOR cannot process used shoes.

3) *Tie each pair together* securely and *mark the soles L (left) and R (right) and the size*. Use a label if the sole of the shoe is too dark to use a marker. Call (318) 251-2690 if you have questions.

Child from page 1.

"We are coming together to launch a new era of faithful and fruitful mission among Louisiana's children," says Bishop Dan E. Solomon, leader of the Louisiana Conference's nine districts and 125,000 members (including over 500 clergy). "We are coming together to decide on new initiatives and next steps. We are gathering to become equipped to lead our congregations into bold, risk-taking, vital ministries that help children to know God's love and grow in Christian character. We are claiming God's power for new energy and new courage to help our congregations be vital centers of Christian effort and Christian influence. We are expecting results," the bishop stated at his office in downtown Baton Rouge.

The Special Session on Children in Need is the Louisiana Annual Conference's response to The Council of Bishops' of The United Methodist Church

"Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty," a 1996 call to United Methodist churches nationwide to "a new level of dedication and commitment" for reaching out to the impoverished, especially children, as Methodism founder John Wesley did in 18th century England. "All children have a basic need and right to know that they are loved infinitely by God and that God seeks for them a life of joy, hope, and meaning," the Council of Bishops declare in the written Initiative. "What is happening to the world's children represents a sinful devaluing of God's gracious gift of life and a thwarting of God's justice for all humanity." It is The Church's mission, the Council asserts, to bring God's grace to "the least of these," in order to receive God's grace itself; the exchange will bring new life and joy to both.

The Special Session on Children in Need will begin at 9:30 a.m. and last until 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person

which includes lunch. Child care is available for children ages six weeks through eighth grade for \$15 per child with advance reservations. Pre-registration is suggested; registration will be available at the door, also. For reservation information, call (318) 869-4568.

Now is the time to prepare yourself to make a difference. Will you? Register today.

OOPS! NO FREE LUNCH

The *Review* has mistakenly reported in previous issues that there is no charge for the Special Session or lunch.

There is a \$5 admission fee which will cover lunch and help defray the cost of the conference.

Guess there really is no such thing as a free lunch.

Bishop from page 1

(10) children related to the church and the result is that half of our congregations (almost 300) have ten or less children related to the church.

We cannot bring further suffering to Louisiana's children by failing to involve them in the church's environment of love, support, encouragement, and spiritual growth. Likewise, we cannot content ourselves to be "adults only" churches. Jesus invited children into the midst of himself and the disciples, not only for the blessing He could bring to children, but also for the blessing children bring into the midst of the faith community.

When we gather for the Special Session

it will also be important for us to gather with a sense of expectation. We are coming together to launch a new era of faithful and fruitful mission among Louisiana's children. We are coming together to decide on new initiatives and next steps. We are gathering to become equipped to lead our congregations into bold, risk-taking, vital ministries that help children to know God's love and grow in Christian character. We are claiming God's power for new energy and new courage to help our congregations be vital centers of Christian effort and

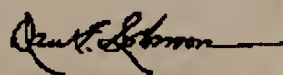
Christian influence. We are expecting results!

The leadership of the Special Session will be provided by persons who are gifted and acknowledged experts in ministries with and for children. Mary Taylor Previte, our plenary speaker, has gained a national reputation in helping children find purpose, direction, values, and character for their life. Workshop leaders have proven track records in their respective fields. Every person attending the Special Session will go back to their congregation greatly

inspired and better equipped to lead their church into a new era of ministry with children in need.

Will you join me in

praying every day for the Special Session? Let us earnestly invoke the Holy Spirit's leading for this "turnaround" day in Louisiana Methodism. Let us offer ourselves completely to God's prompting in our life in behalf of all children. Let us "make friends of God's children, help those who are weak."



Dan E. Solomon

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

'We will change the world...with ordinary people planting acorns --reaching out to a child--one at a time.'

Juvenile offender expert, author to address Special Session



Mary T. Previte

by Bobbie Armstrong
Review Editor

Mary Taylor Previte--daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter of missionaries-- has spent the last quarter of a century of her life listening to kids in trouble--serious trouble--whom God's grace has brought to the safety of a blue bucket chair in her office at Camden County Youth Center in New Jersey where she has been administrator since 1974. For many of the teenagers, it is the only safe place they have ever known.

Although a teacher, she has been a student of wrecked young lives; her lesson learned valuable: "*Childhood and youth are the time to plant the seeds that bring success.*" She should know; every day at the juvenile detention center she transformed from almost bedlam to a nationally recognized model, she sees and tries to alter the results of over 1,600 teenagers a year who have grown up without a real childhood, without being spiritually fed and without anyone ever investing any time in them. Their crimes include murder, assault, rape and drug dealing.

Keynote speaker at Special Session

On October 4, Previte, revered expert in the field of juvenile detention and author of *Hungry Ghosts*--a riveting book about her life and the teenagers she has missioned to and been missioned by--will be the featured speaker at the Louisiana Conference's "Children in Need" Special Session in Pineville. She will share her wisdom about the importance of reaching out to kids in early

childhood, the focus of the Special Session, in a talk entitled "You can change the shape of your mountain."

"We will change our world, not with bulldozers," Previte says in a phone interview, "but with ordinary people, planting acorns--reaching out to a child--one at a time. That is how we will change the shape of our mountains."

A POW in mission to POWs

Previte's story, as told in her book, is fascinating and moving. She is the great-granddaughter of J. Hudson Taylor, one of the first missionaries to serve China in 1851. She was born to missionary parents in China and spent three years of her childhood as a POW of the Japanese in Weihsien concentration camp in northern China; she was separated from her parents for five and a half years as a result of World War II.

That experience of war prepared her to work with the kids she helps today whom she describes as prisoners of an urban war. The structure, discipline and love that got her through Weihsien is what molded her successful program at Camden County today, she says.

Do not miss the opportunity to hear her story. She advises state and national leaders on juvenile delinquency and her wisdom will be a great asset to anyone hoping to make a difference in a child's life.

Copies of *Hungry Ghosts* will be available at the conference for \$8.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS AT SPECIAL SESSION

Two cellular phone numbers will be effective the day of the Special Session. Please reserve their use to emergencies only:

(318) 452-9700 or (318) 452-9701.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE Events

Picture your church
news here..
Send news and photos
(color okay) to:
Bobbie Armstrong
Editor
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Conference Program Calendar

September

19-20 UMW Conference Annual Meeting
22-23 Cabinet Meeting
25-28 Mens #7 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
25-28 Cursillo #60, Conference Center
27 Fall Convocation, Conference Center

October

4 Children in Need Called Session of the Annual Conference, Louisiana College, Pineville
9-12 Women's #8 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
10-12 South Central Jurisdictional Singles Training Event, Mount Sequoyah
14 Cabinet Meeting
24-25 UMW District Elected Leaders' Training, Conference Center
27-28 Order of Elders Meeting, Conference Center, 12-noon to 12-noon

November

1-8 Council of Bishops
13-14 Cabinet Meeting
13-16 St. Gabriel Kairos #6
20-23 Cursillo #61, Conference Center
21-23 UMW Leadership Development Event, Chicago

Epps UMC elder honored on 88th birthday



Mrs. Nell Hawkins Tharpe (pictured above), elder member of the Epps United Methodist Church, recently celebrated her 88th birthday with church members.

Born at Fort Jessup, La. in 1909, her family moved to Epps in 1919 where her father, C. L. Hawkins, Sr., helped organize the Epps Church in 1920. Mrs. Tharpe became a member and has dedicated herself to serving the church for the last 77 years.

She was married to Ray Tharpe, who also was a member of the church until his death in 1978. They have four children.

Mrs. Tharpe is an avid gardener and excellent cook. She has been treasurer of Epps UMW group for approximately 25 years.

Peoples seek former associates for 75-year celebration

Peoples United Methodist Community Center in New Orleans will celebrate its 75th anniversary Sunday, October 12th at 3 p.m. in the Lawless Memorial Chapel on the campus of Dillard University.

Bishop Dan E. Solomon will be the keynote speaker. The theme will be "Making a Difference."

Peoples is in search of former students, alumni, past executive directors/presidents/board members, volunteers and other individuals who have contributed to the life of Peoples Center.

Please send the name, complete address and telephone number of yourself or persons you know who have had a connection to Peoples at 2019 Simon Bolivar Avenue, New Orleans, La. 70113. Phone: (504)524-1041; Fax (504)524-9495. Contact: Marva L. Mitchell or Johnny Sneed.



Pharr Chapel celebrates Jesus at VBS

Vacation Bible School was a great celebration at Pharr Chapel in Morgan City (pictured above).

Children learned about Jesus as a young boy and how he had to learn about God as he grew up, just as they do today, says VBS '97 Director Lisa Thomas.

And they learned it is *FUN* to celebrate God's love for us and it is our job to go out and share His work and His love with others, she adds.

Upcoming Events

Ministerial Recruitment Event (open to anyone over 25 and spouses interested in ministry) September 26-27

Highland Park United Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas

1997 Singles Training Event Getting the Right Things Right October 10-12

Mount Sequoyah Conference Center
Fayetteville, AR
(501) 443-4531 to register
Cost: \$57.50, plus room.

Join us in mission to those in need!

Louisiana Conference UMM
Men and Boys Retreat

Friday October 10-1 p.m. to
Saturday, October 11--5 p.m.

Sager-Brown
Baldwin, LA

All Methodist men invited; all boys age 12-over invited.

Cost: \$25

Meals not included. Please bring sheets, pillows, towel and tools: hammer, skill saws, etc.

Three work sessions available:

Friday p.m., Saturday a.m. and p.m.
Light work available for physical limitations.

Registration required before September 27.

To register:

Send check payable to LA Conference UMM
to James Hinckley, 7458 Highway 126
Dodson, LA 71422

Please indicate sessions to be attended.

In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

the wife (Alice Joyce) and family of Rev. John Guyre, pastor, Fairview-Sweetlake (Lake Charles District), who died of a heart attack September 1. The funeral was held September 3 at Indian Bayou UMC with Rev. Bob Peterson (Ret., Shreveport District) presiding.

Rev. Ken Bowman, pastor, Amite-Independence (North Shore District), and his wife Ginger on the death of her brother, Sidney Eppinette, who died August 30. The funeral was held August 31 in Monroe.

Rev. Terral Lowe, director, Caney Conference Center, Minden (Ruston District) and his wife Evelyn on the death of her brother Gene Cox. A memorial service was held September 5 in Minden.

Rev. Richard Poss, pastor, West Monroe, Claiborne-WilHITE (Monroe District), on the death of his brother-in-law, Gordon Price. The funeral was September 6 in Arkansas.

Rev. Merlin Merrill (retired, now serving Ansley UMC--Ruston District) on the death of his sister, Mrs. Leola Johnson who died September 4. The funeral was held September 8.

Rev. Bill Boyd, pastor, Florien, Prospect-Hornbeck (Lake Charles District), and his wife Josephine on the death of her father, Joseph Snyder, who died September 4. The funeral was held in Pennsylvania.

Don't forget:

UM Women of Munholland UMC hosts its annual Bazaar and Silent Auction **Saturday, September 27** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade crafts, plants, books, records, baked goods, hot plate lunches will be sold. 1201 Metairie Road, New Orleans. Call (504) 935-5031.

Louisiana Edition
United Methodist Review
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Edition

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October 3, 1997

Evangeline-Genesis merge

by Bobbie Armstrong
LUM Review Editor

Bishop: And what do you desire?

All: We wish to become one people, expanding our part of God's work and witness in the community and enriching our experience of life together in Christ.

From "The Litany of Unification and Commitment"
Evangeline UMC



Review staff photos by Bobbie Armstrong

UM Church officials led the Evangeline-Genesis merger celebration. Standing left to right: Rev. Leslie Norris, Baton Rouge District superintendent; Bishop Dan Solomon; Rev. Robert Ross, Evangeline associate pastor; Rev. Larry Norman, Evangeline senior pastor.

Desire to serve God brings churches to 'family reunion'

BATON ROUGE—The desire to serve God produces amazing results. In the Louisiana Conference, the longing mentioned in the litany above to "witness in the community" and "expand God's work" has opened the doors of reconciliation and renewal to two United Methodist congregations—one mostly African American (Genesis), the other mostly white (Evangeline)—who used to enter two separate churches. Now they are one: solid, strong, determined and "unique."

On Sunday, September 14, members and friends of Evangeline UMC and Genesis UMC celebrated the joining of their two congregations in a ceremony Louisiana Conference Bishop Dan Solomon described as a "family reunion, rather than a merger.

"We are just recognizing here that we are *all* one family under one God no matter what color our skin," the bishop said in a sermon which stressed the importance of eliminating racism from the Church. "United Methodism is committed to the inclusive nature of faith and life in Jesus Christ. We always have more credibility when we demonstrate, as these two churches are doing, what we believe."

Historically, "this is a Louisiana first because it is the first time a black and a white congregation have united since the merger of Louisiana Conferences A and B in 1971," says Rev. Leslie Norris, superintendent of the Baton Rouge District of which Evangeline is a part.

The story of how these two churches found each other is one of strong laity leadership in a congregation allowing the Spirit to take a church to a higher level of commitment to service to God. Evangeline UMC was formed in 1990 from the merger of North Baton Rouge, Winbourne and

Istrouma UM Churches. Located at 4260 Evangeline St., it sits in the middle of a culturally diverse neighborhood, says long-time member and lay leader LaMarylis Cotten. "We were trying to reach out to the neighborhood with home visits, flyers, and outdoor activities, but we weren't drawing anyone in because we had



Evangeline lay leaders lead the congregation in "The Litany of Unification and Commitment."

the stigma of being a 'white church.'"

One day, Dr. Alonzo Campbell visited Evangeline as guest preacher; when Cotten asked him for advice, Campbell offered

her a copy of *Bringing Your Church Back to Life: Beyond Survival Mentality* by Daniel Buttry. "Those 159 pages about a church in Boston in a situation just like ours changed our lives," she says. All 13 lay leaders in the church read the book, discussed it, quoted it and started living it.

Around the same time, Rev. Robert Ross, who had been a member of Evangeline, but had recently gone into the ministry, was assigned to Genesis UMC, which he describes as a struggling, predominately black church in the same neighborhood.

Early in 1997, Ross read a story in *The Interpreter* magazine about a successful mixed-culture church merger in the Texas Conference. When he shared the article with Genesis' chair of the Administrative Council, George Britton, the thought of merging with Evangeline began to form. Discussions began between the two churches. Last June, Genesis moved out of its building and began worship services with Evangeline.

"What is important about this merger," says Ross, "is that it was and is a lay-led effort. No one forced any of this to happen, not even the bishop. It has been a totally Spirit-led movement."

Now that the joining is official, Rev. Larry Norman, pastor of Evangeline for the last four years, and Ross will co-lead the congregation and lay leaders from both churches will continue to merge their efforts.

"The challenge now," Norman says, "is to create and maintain a vital, effective, culturally sensitive ministry to this community."

UMCOR to ship Korean food boxes in October

100 boxes short

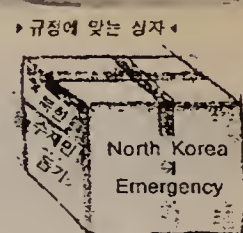
UMCOR plans to ship food boxes to Korea in October. But, they are 100 boxes short of a full container.

Depot Coordinator Terry Park asks that if you are holding any Korean food boxes or can make more, please get them to the depot in Baldwin as soon as possible. As soon as they get the needed amount, they will ship them to the people in Korea.

Remember, one box feeds a family of five for a week.

The drive to collect relief boxes for people starving from famine in Korea has been an initiative of the Louisiana Conference since Annual Conference in June.

UMCOR has already shipped two containers to Korea in July--a total of 1,372 food boxes.



A LOOK INSIDE

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Oldest Natchitoches UMC
turns 131
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Bishop Dan E. Solomon

Being and Doing

An Awesome Weekend

Here is a word about a weekend more awesome than any you will find advertised in travel brochures or posted on the "internet."

In July, Joy and I attended a Cursillo Weekend. Even though we had previously been on a Walk to Emmaus, we wanted the blessing that we knew would also come to us through Cursillo. We are most grateful that the Louisiana Conference has Weekends for spiritual renewal such as Cursillo and Walk to Emmaus. Since both have a similar basic design and format, both provide a rich Weekend of faith enrichment, supportive community, and personal spiritual priority.

The Weekend is an experience of love and grace. In the routine of wages, merit pay, earnings, and winning, we forget how much our lives need to experience the grace that God gives because God wants to give. "Grace,

grace, marvelous grace" are the words of a chorus. They are also words that nourish the parched soil of our souls. The Weekend is more than talking about grace; it is an experience of grace in some wonderfully refreshing and surprising ways. The Weekend awakens us to blessings and washings we have long needed, but often have not even recognized.

The Weekend is also a "short course" on faith fundamentals. We need those times when we can focus in a systematic fashion on basic principles of faith and life. So often we "sort of" know some of the fundamentals of our faith, but we do not have them put together in our thinking in a format that is clear and workable. The Weekend gives us some handles to hold on to as we seek to apply our faith to our daily lives.

The Weekend is also shared community. Amidst real caring, mutual encouragement and countless expressions of self-giving, all who share in the Weekend do so at a level of "community" that is not found in most of the places where we live and work. Meals are happy occasions, with lots of laughter and an abundance of delicious food. Times of singing, listening, sharing and praying are positioned so powerfully in the context of community that each person is lifted up to dwell in fresh ways on the solid rock of Jesus Christ.

The Weekend is laity-led ministry in personal and power-

The Weekend awakens us to blessings and washings we have long needed, but often have not even recognized.

ful fashion. Here is clear demonstration that in the living of the Christian faith there is no appropriate lay/clergy distinction; we are all one in Christ's ministry. Lay presentations were spiritually strong, theologically sound, and flowed from hearts grateful to God. We are blessed in Louisiana United Methodism to be led by such dedicated, caring and giving lay persons.

If you have not attended a Weekend (either Cursillo or Walk to Emmaus), I hope you will do so right away. When you attend, you will experience God's grace in fresh ways and you will grow in the joy of following and serving Christ.

Pastors who attend will be blessed by being "ministered unto." Laity who attend will experience the ministry of other laity in ways that inspire, instruct and encourage.

I am convinced that Weekends of spiritual renewal are essential if we are to live positively, productively and hopefully. Refreshing weekends of faith nourishment not only change lives, such Weekends are vital for the spiritual climate and power of an Annual Conference seeking to invest itself in mission with the hurting, the poor and the spiritually empty.

Dan E. Solomon

Bishop's Episcopal address has Sunday school classes saying 'amen'

by Mark J. Goins

Associate Pastor, First UMC-Bossier City

There is a sweet, sweet Spirit moving through our church--the Spirit of the Lord--which has arisen because of a number of things going on, but particularly, from watching a simple video cassette.

After Annual Conference, many of the participants from First UMC--Bossier City were buzzing with excitement about what had transpired

during that week. Some of the delegates wanted every member of their Sunday school class to feel and see the Spirit that had flowed through the Gold Dome at Centenary College in Shreveport. When they found out we had the bishop's address on video, they decided to show the video in their Sunday school classes.

The response from the first Sunday school class that viewed the tape was so overwhelming and enthusiastic that almost every adult Sunday school class couldn't wait to experience the video tape as well.

Some of the Sunday school classes would watch the tape one week and discuss it the next week. Others watched certain parts and discussed the tape over several weeks. In some of the classes, audible "amens" and clapping could be heard at different moments during the bishop's address. One class even joined in singing the hymn "Where He Leads Me I Will

Follow" at the closing of the video.

Watching the bishop's address has brought about some transformations in our church. Members who watched the video gained an excitement and energy about Methodism in Louisiana. It gave them a renewed Spirit and understanding of the Church at both the Annual Conference and General Conference levels. The laity are discussing the problems of the Church and how to fix them. They see the new direction that the Church is taking and what

**Church,
we've gone blind.
We can't see our-
selves
as missionaries.**

Bishop Dan Solomon
1997 Episcopal Address

effect those changes will have on the local church and each individual. And, most importantly, they feel a new sense of connectedness--even members who did not attend Annual Conference--between all the levels of the Church and the other members of the Louisiana Conference.

After viewing the video, members of First UMC have said they appreciate the openness and candor that the bishop showed regarding the problems facing the church and Conference today. Church members hope with his leadership, solutions can be found in Louisiana. They want to see The United Methodist Church thrive, not just survive. They want to make "the main thing the main thing," and that is making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Editor's Note: To order copies of Bishop Solomon's Episcopal address, contact Audio Enterprises, Route 1, Box 18 EEE, Ames, OK 73718 or call (405) 753-4661. Videos cost \$15 plus \$1 for shipping.

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE CENTER: A Methodist Center for Spiritual Renewal

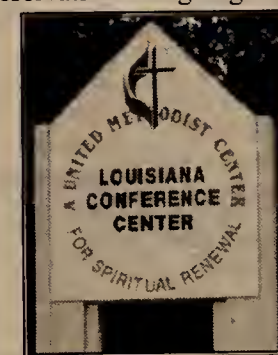
Who's using your 'place of grace?'

When the Louisiana Conference Center opened its doors nine months ago, everyone assumed that it would be used most frequently by United Methodists. After all, it is a *United Methodist Center for Spiritual Renewal*.

But, Debbie Taylor, LCC's director of reservations, reports that during the months of August and September, church friends, government and corporations used LCC's fabulous facilities twice as much as United Methodists.

Even with all the non-Methodist bookings,

there are still good dates available for holiday parties and family reunions, but reservations are going fast.



But, call now if you are planning a holiday banquet, retreat or just a rest from all that holiday rushing around.

When you're there, check out the "Grove

of Sharing Trees," a unique wall hanging in the lobby that commemorates donors to the Conference Center. Dr. Nancy Carruth, chair of the Memorials Committee, encourages all who have outstanding pledges to complete their obligations so the committee can take all paid-up donors name and add complete the engraving of the "Grove of Sharing Trees."

The reservation office can be reached by calling (318) 449-4500.

Come find out what non-Methodists already know. This place of grace is great!

Dates for Annual Conference '98 change to June 8-11

Bishop Dan Solomon has granted a request from the Worship Committee for Annual Conference to change the dates for Annual Conference 1998 to Monday, June 8 through Thursday, June 11.

"With an increasing focus on children and youth in our Conference,"

the bishop said, "every effort needs to be made to increase the opportunity for persons to be involved in Annual Conference."

The later date will accommodate the ending of the school year for more children in the Louisiana Conference.



UMCOR Depot issues urgent request for US disasters items

The UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, La. has issued an urgent request for flood and other disaster relief items to keep its shelves stocked. Following is a list of items needed:

Cleaning Supplies	Personal Items	Plastic/foil wrap	Cooking pots/pans
Scouring pads	Soaps/shampoo	Facial tissues	Cooking oil
Dish detergent	Toothbrush/toothpaste		Coffee/tea
Laundry detergent	Lotion	Baby Goods	Salt/pepper
Household cleaner	Feminine hygiene products	Disposable diapers	
Pails	First aid supplies	Wipes, pacifiers	Protective Clothing for Clean Up
Rubber gloves/masks	Razors	Powders/lotions	Dust masks
Insect sprays	Comb/brush	Non-perishable foods	Protective eye wear
Disinfectant	Deodorants	<i>New</i> clothes	Foot protectors/boots
Trash bags	Sun screen	Soft toys	
Mops/brooms	Adult diapers		For Re-Construction (enough to be used for temporary or minor repair)
Cleaning towels, rags	Dental floss	Linens	Visquene
	Insect repellent	Towels, wash cloths	Staples/nails
Pet Foods		Sheets, blankets, pillows	1/2 inch plywood
Dry and canned	Paper Goods	Dish cloths, etc.	2x4s
	Paper towels, cups, plates, bowls	Foods	Sheet rock
Hand Tools	Toilet tissue	Non-perishable canned and dry	15 lb. Roofing felt
Rakes	Plastic cutlery	Canned drinks	30 lb. Fleshing
Shovels	Napkins	Juices	210 lb. Asphalt shingles--self-sealing
Water hose	Boxes for take-out meals	Bottled water	
Hammer/nails	Zip lock bags	Hand-operated can openers	
Flashlights/batteries	Coffee filters		
Extension cords			
Paint brush/rollers			

Supplies are extremely low, according to UMCOR officials. If you would like to contribute, deliver items to the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin or contact them at (800) 814-8765.

Morality in Media mounts campaign

NEW YORK — Morality in Media (MIM) is mounting a national petition drive to urge President Clinton to enforce aggressively the Federal laws against obscenity, as he pledged to do in his 1992 election campaign.

The national interfaith anti-pornography organization is distributing the petition forms nationally and will collect signatures into the fall.

The petitions will be delivered to the White House following MIM's annual White Ribbon Against Pornography campaign during Pornography Awareness Week, October 26 through November 2.

MIM asserts that Mr. Clinton's 1992 campaign included a commitment "that aggressive enforcement of federal obscenity laws by the Justice Department — particularly by the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section — will be a priority in a Clinton/Gore administration."

But in the five years since then, arrests and convictions for obscenity law violations are down sharply from prior years, the group says.

Copies of the Petition to President Clinton and a free newsletter with suggestions for participation in Pornography Awareness Week are available by calling MIM at (212) 870-3222. Their website address is <http://www.net-com.com/mimnyc>.

Whose birthday is it, anyway?

Is life too stressed? Christmas losing its meaning? Want help simplifying your celebrations?

Alternatives for Simple Living, a national non-profit Christian ministry, offers *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?*, its most widely read resource, which suggests ways to re-spiritualize Christmas commercialism.

This 36-page booklet includes weekly reflections, times of worship, and other activities which will help individuals, families and small groups create holidays which remember the one whose birth we celebrate. It is customized for over 20 denominations.

To order by mail, call (800) 821-6153. PRICES: Single copies--\$3 each; 5-19 copies--\$2.20 each; 20-49 copies--\$1.50 each; 50-299--\$.90 each; 300-999--\$.75 each; 1,000+--\$.58 each. Some past editions available at half price.

Did you know?

A Gallup Poll asked, "How often do you ask a friend or neighbor to join you at worship?"

Some 76% of Americans said "never."
(From Princeton Religious Research Center)

Reprinted from *NEWSCOPE*.

FINANCIAL TIPS

Ways to catch misuse of church funds

- 1) Rotate your treasurers. In a small church, the work is less, so you should be able to find someone. In a large church, look around for your talented people. Embezzlers will strike you as the most dedicated of people. They cannot afford to take time off or be replaced, because they will be replaced. (See *Book of Discipline* (249.7).)
- 2) Be sure you are seeing the original checkbook, checks, records. Don't take your work for granted.
- 3) Run a total for an account at random (for instance, altar flowers). Does the treasurer's figure come close to the amount you think it should be? Most churches have a set weekly fee: simply multiply it by 52.
- 4) Be sure the cancelled checks are stored at the church.
- 5) Read the treasurer's reports to your Administrative Council and to the Charge Conference. Does one statement's ending balance equal the next beginning balance? Are there accounts (heat, etc.) that seem unreasonably high? If nothing else, you might bring expenses under control.
- 6) Sign the checkbook itself with the date and balance at the time of the audit. Next year, begin at this point.
- 7) Look over the treasurer's reports and compare with the previous year. Between Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, one church lost as much as \$15,000 on paper (the treasurer had already spent it and this covered the trail). The treasurer simply began the new report with a different balance from the end of the last report.
- 8) Make sure your finance secretary and treasurer are two separate people. Funds can quietly disappear when the person deposits the money and writes the checks.
- 9) Sudden changes in apportionment payouts may be a sign of trouble. Can you make it one year and not the next without really knowing why?
- 10) Be sure the bank will notify the pastor or the church office of any overdrafts. Many times our statements go directly to the treasurer, who can then manage to cover misdeeds.
- 11) Questions deserve answers. It may be bad to imply that something is wrong, but it is worse to have the contributions made to God through the church misused. Everyone may feel better if the treasurer is totally cleared and an explanation given.
- 12) Put the cancelled checks in numerical order or have the treasurer tape them back into the checkbook. Make sure all the checks are accounted for, even the voids.
- 13) The Committee on Finance should designate two persons (preferably not related) to count the offering, giving a record of funds to both the financial secretary and treasurer.
- 14) Don't get paranoid. Most treasurers are good, honest people. But embezzling is a sickness that doesn't go away or get better. In fact, the amount generally grows to the point where the embezzlement becomes obvious and the person is caught. Embezzlers were good, honest people at one time, and are able to make excuses for themselves in their own minds. The United Methodist system does work when you use it. We have budgets, audits, and rotations for reasons. Don't let your local church down by ignoring the safeguards.

From *Local Church Guidelines*--The General Council on Finance and Administration, Evanston, IL.

Bits and pieces

•Perkins School of Theology is offering a new event designed for volunteers who work with youth.

It is called "Volunteer's (sic) In Youth Ministry Workshop" and will be held, Saturday, November 8 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the school's campus in Dallas.

Registration deadline is October 27. Call 1-800-THEOLOG(Y) to register.

•"Blessings for the Journey,"

a retreat for church professionals, will be held January 8-10, 1998 at Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville.

The retreat will provide a safe, gentle environment in which to deal with personal spiritual and emotional issues that impact ministry.

The program fee is \$50, with an additional on-campus resident fee of \$104, which includes lodging and meals. To register, call (615) 340-7557.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Events

Let's connect . . .
Send us your news
(typed copy please) and
photos (color okay) to:
Bobbie Armstrong
Editor
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Editor's note:

We love getting your news, no matter what size your congregation. Please send announcements about upcoming events at least one month in advance of the event to allow enough time for publishing and distribution. Issue deadlines are always included in the editorial credit section (see below).

Thanks for your cooperation *and your contributions*.

CHURCH RESOURCE

Mission Secretaries available for churches



Louisiana
Conference
Mission
Secretaries
Sam and
Janie Burch
(pictured left)
are available
to speak to
local UMW,
UMM and

churches to tell the story of God's people in mission.

They are eager to tell you how your church can become involved in mission work. They serve the entire state on behalf of the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Contact them at (318) 439-8630.

Gretna UMC plans centennial weekend

Gretna UMC will celebrate its 100th birthday the weekend of Oct. 10-12 with a variety of activities and services including an address by Bishop Dan Solomon on Sunday.

On Friday, an informal service will feature young people who have entered the ministry from Gretna UMC. Saturday's activities begin at 2 p.m. and include a dinner at 5 p.m.

Services on Sunday will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by a reception and service with the bishop in which the mortgage on the property will be burned.

The church is located at 1309 Whitney Avenue, Gretna. Call (504) 366-6685 for information.

Numbers of Note

Conference Office toll-free:
1 (888) 239-5286

InfoServe: 1 (800) 874-3211

Conference youth and adults make a difference on Mountain TOP

by Beth Tuversen

One hundred twenty-four youth and adults from the Louisiana Conference put their faith into action this summer by serving others for a week at Mountain TOP, an outreach ministry affiliated with the Tennessee Conference, in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. They were among 3,200 youth and adults who came from around the country to run day camps and repair homes for low-income families.

At the day camps, the Louisiana youth led children age five to 11 in songs, games, and recreation and taught arts, crafts, puppetry arts and nature activities. The youth also helped the children perform community service projects which taught them the value of giving back to their own community. They spent quality time with the children building their self esteem, sharing their faith and being Christian role

models.

Many of the Louisiana youth helped build porches and sheds, painted houses, repaired roofs, cleaned houses and yards, and washed trailers for local families.

Over the course of the summer, Louisiana youth from Asbury UMC, Lafayette; First UMCs of Alexandria and DeRidder; St. Paul's UMC, Monroe; St. Timothy's, Mandeville and Trinity UMC, Ruston, experienced cultural exchanges, learned the value of teamwork, and became part of a Christian community focused on serving Christ by serving others.

Mountain TOP is an interdenominational Christian mission project in ministry to rural Tennessee. For further information about upcoming mission opportunities in October and November, please call (615) 298-1575.



Conference Program Calendar

October

- 4 Children in Need Special Session of the Annual Conference, Louisiana College, Pineville
- 9-12 Women's #8 Walk to Emmaus, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge
- 10-12 South Central Jurisdictional Singles Training Event, Mount Sequoyah
- 14 Cabinet Meeting
- 24-25 UMW District Elected Leaders' Training, Conference Center
- 25 Special Ministries Retreat, Wesley UMC, Baton Rouge, 9-3
- 27-28 Order of Elders Meeting, Conference Center, 12-noon to 12-noon

November

- 1-8 Council of Bishops
- 13-14 Cabinet Meeting
- 13-16 St. Gabriel Kairos #6
- 16-17 Fall Visit with Bishop Solomon and Joy for Retired Clergy, Conference Center
- 20-23 Cursillo #61, Conference Center
- 21-23 UMW Leadership Development Event, Chicago

December

- 5-7 Conference Junior High Retreat, Conference Center
- 6 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 9-10 Cabinet Meeting

Upcoming Events

Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, will host an **Open House** for high school juniors and seniors interested in attending Centenary. **Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Meet faculty, students, take tours, or get financial aid information. Call (800) 234-4448.

...

Cornerstone UMC, New Orleans, will host **October Fest '97, Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** on the church grounds at 5276 Bullard Avenue. Enjoy games, craft booths, food, fun, fellowship. Call (504) 242-4090.

...

Mt. Zion UMC, New Orleans, will host its first **Annual Outreach Ministries Banquet, Thursday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.** at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Bishop Alfred Norris will speak. Call (504) 895-6110.

Oldest Methodist congregation in Natchitoches Parish celebrates 131 years



Asbury UMC--Natchitoches, the oldest Methodist church in Natchitoches Parish, celebrated its 131st anniversary on August 17.

The church was founded in 1867 as the Natchitoches Missionary Society Church with a \$2,000 grant from the Methodist Episcopal Society in New York. Its first pastor was Rev. Ebenezer Hayward.

Guest preacher for the celebration was Rev. Douglas Cain, pastor of First UMC of Natchitoches and former pastor of Asbury, pictured above (r) with current pastor Rev. James A. Graham.

Rudolph Leon, Jr., president of the Natchitoches Parish School Board is current lay leader of the church.

In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

Rev. Larry Miller, pastor, First UMC, Denham Springs (North Shore Dist.), on the death of his grandfather, H. E. Hostettler, who died Sept. 24. The funeral was held Sept. 28 in Indiana.

Louisiana Conference Edition
of the
United Methodist Review
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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Gospel Communications
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DEADLINE FOR:

October 17 Issue--October 6
October 31 Issue--October 13



LOUISIANA

United Methodist

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Edition

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Phone: 504-346-1646 / FAX: 504-383-2652

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 22

018000 Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

October 17, 1997

Special Session: Children in Need

by Bobbie Armstrong
LUM Review Editor

Pineville, La.—On a spectacular October 4th morning, more than 4,500 Louisiana United Methodists gathered here on the picturesque campus of Louisiana College with one thing on their minds: children—specifically, children in need. And they brought with them an amazing number of tennis shoes—over 27,000 pair of new tennis shoes of every color and size. The shoes filled to overflowing a tractor-trailer waiting to transfer them to the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Depot in Baldwin, La., for shipment to children in Africa who suffer and die from walking across sharp lava rock without shoes.

This unique and historic occasion was the Louisiana Annual Conference's Special Session on Children in Need called by the bishop and cabinet to address specifically and boldly The United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops' Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty. The one-day event included a child-led worship service with a tennis shoe offering, a keynote address by Mary Taylor Previte—author of *Hungry Ghosts* and renowned expert on rehabilitation of child and youth offenders—and 26 workshops led by experts in the topics offered.

"We have gathered from across Louisiana," said Bishop Dan E. Solomon, leader of Louisiana's 125,000 United Methodists, "to declare to ourselves, to our churches and to our state that United Methodists are on the move. We are moving forward in new ministries with and for children; we are moving with the Spirit's leading into places of risk to be a people of resurrection passion; we are moving against the forces in this society that harm children and degrade families.

"We have come here to claim the awesome power of God," he continued in a "call to order" address, "that fills us with the confidence we need to make our lives and congregations a means of grace for transforming people and demonstrating a compassionate and just social order. We have come to join with Christ to say, 'let the children come.' We have gathered to hear Christ say again, 'In as much as you've done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me.'"

The day's program began with a



Photo by Peter Harrington

An offering of new tennis shoes will go to children in Africa.

Churches gather to 'Feed My Lambs'

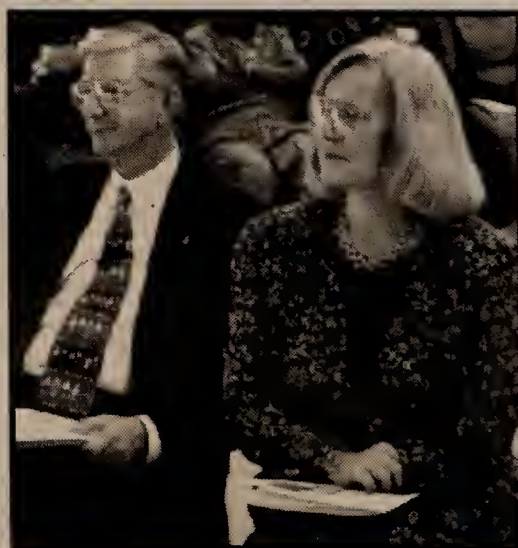


Photo by William Nolan

Bishop Dan Solomon and Plenary Speaker Mary Previte watch as children lead the worship service.

worship service conducted entirely by children, including a choir, a signing choir, liturgical dancers, a moving performance of an African Grief Dance to "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," and accompaniment by a youth orchestra. Several of the songs performed were especially composed for this service by Joy Solomon. Children portrayed various situations such as poverty, broken families, violence, sexual abuse, and prejudice. Each congregation in attendance brought forth an offering of one pair of tennis shoes, symbolizing its commitment to children worldwide.

In a powerful plenary address, Previte, great grand-daughter of Hudson Taylor who was a pioneering missionary in China in 1851, used a parable of an old man planting acorns on a mountain top to paint a picture for the audience of how "You can change the shape of your mountain." Like the old shepherd planting acorns one at a time, "it will be ordinary people like you and me that will change this mountain called America" she said, "not presidents, or judges or mayors."

Sharing the stories of the children she has encountered in her 23 years as administrator of the Camden County Youth Center in Camden, New Jersey, Previte delivered what she called "messages from her mountain," lessons learned from the lives of troubled and violent children "whom she has sheltered at the pre-trial detention center she transformed from a 'snakepit' to a nationally recognized model. In relaying the first message—"Spend time with me," Previte said memories are the "blueprint of a child's future. Shaping a child forever are the experiences within a family or the memories that are not there." Most of the children she works with have empty memory chests about their families, she said, and they repeat the pattern with their own children.

The second message was, "Feed my spirit," which she illustrated with a 16-year-old girl named Maria who at age 11 ran away from home and became a "go-go" dancer in a club and a drug addict. Why? Because at home her father beat her with an extension cord and wine bottles and always called her a "freeloader." At the club, men called her "sweet stuff" as they paid her money for dancing. In contrast, Previte described los-

Please see Special Session, page 4.

Motion Approved at Special Session

I move that the Louisiana Conference further implement the Episcopal Initiative on Children in Poverty in the following ways:



1. Pastors, local churches, and conference institutions obtain and study the resource material for the Episcopal Initiative.

2. Clergy and lay persons in the Louisiana Conference be encouraged and equipped for ministry with children by an intentional utilization of the Episcopal Initiative in congregations, institutions, districts, and the Annual Conference.

3. Every congregation, whatever its size, and institution undertake new and/or renewed ministries with children to the extent that no United Methodist congregation or institution will be without some specific ministry with and for children in 1998, both locally and globally.

4. Children be frequently and consistently included in worship leadership, such as reading the scriptures, responsive readings, litanies, etc., and on occasion be invited to the finance committee, administrative board, etc. to share their concerns and their witness.

5. That all who have attended this Special Session covenant together to lead Louisiana United Methodism into bold ministry with and for children as well as to become advocates for children in every setting where some decision and some difference needs to be made.

6. That we declare boldly in word and deed that the Christ who has called little children to him now calls us to little children for him.

A LOOK INSIDE

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Quilts to Kmart specials
Page 4



Bishop Dan E. Solomon

Being and Doing

Savoring and Serving

Each time I have a deeply moving, powerful experience of grace and calling, I find myself being drawn to the "savoring" of the experience. Such "savoring" is not only understandable, it is important. We need the nourishment of "moments of meaning." We need to recall times of rejoicing. We are sustained by memory.

For people of faith, "savoring" and "serving" are inextricably linked. Moses' "mountain-top moment" of receiving the Ten Commandments was followed by the ordinary challenge of serving God and God's people by living the Commandments that had been received.

We can all identify with the reluctance of the disciples to leave the mountain top experience of "transfiguration" to go into the valley where transfiguration was to become trans-

lation—putting into practice the powerful experience of seeing the awesome splendor of God in those around us.

Our Special Session has been an awesome encounter with the God who overwhelms us with love and grace, troubles us with fresh and painful insight, and inspires and sustains us as we now enter the ordinary to do the extraordinary. Having embraced mission to the least and lost, we move into familiar places with new energy for serving Christ by serving children.

All of us experienced some high moment, some special blessing, some deep, spirited, new resolve during the Special Session. Upon us now is the joyful, humbling work of taking what we have experienced and learned to the children around our churches and children around the world.

Every congregation and institution of the Louisiana Conference has a vital ministry with and for children. Whether it is a ministry we begin or one that we continue in a new and more fruitful fashion, we now have the tools for this important work. I also believe we have the Spirit's power to proceed productively!

Dan E. Solomon

A word to witness: Teach the lambs love

by Walter Parker, Jr.
Pastor, First UMC
Lake Providence, La.

There is great concern in this community and many others across this land for our children and youth. There is a lot of talk about the breakdown of family and values. The cry that is heard is: "Save the children!" What an awesome task.

One way to save the children is to save the adults. That may seem like an out-of-place statement, but I feel that it is right on target. The following poem gives an insight as to why I feel this way. You will recognize the scripture

'Twas A SHEEP

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed
away,

In the parable Jesus told;
A grown-up sheep that had gone astray
From the ninety and nine in the fold.

Out on the hillside, out in the cold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought;
And back to the flock, safe into the fold,

'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd
brought. And why for the sheep should
we earnestly long,

And as fervently hope and pray?
Because there is danger, if they go wrong,

They will lead the lambs astray.
And so with the sheep we tenderly plead,
For the sake of the lambs today;

If the sheep are lost, what terrible cost
Some lambs will have to pay!

(Matt. 18:10-14; Luke 15:4-6)

that it represents:

Adults do influence children and youth. My father has always told me that other children would watch everything I did and would try all the foolish things. Maybe some of these children would get hurt in the process or cause injury to someone else. I was 16 at that time and my dad's statement had an impact on me.

As an adult, that statement still effects me. If my children see me tell a lie, they will think that it is okay. If they see me being dishonest, then they will think that it is okay to be dishonest. If they catch me praying, they may also think it is okay to pray.

"If change is to take place in society, it has to begin at home with the teaching of love and acceptance of others who may be different from us. In a television commercial last year, Mother Theresa said, "Love begins at home."

How true. If all of the big sheep would begin teaching the lambs love and respect, what a powerful change there would be. On the other hand, if we simply live and let live, what a powerful change that would be too. Love, I believe, is always the better choice.

Editor's note: If you have "A Word to Witness" to share with our readers, please submit it to Editor, LUM Review, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802.

Task Force will evaluate Special Session

The Louisiana Conference's Task Force on Children in Need, chaired by Mrs. Joanne White (pictured below) will meet soon to evaluate the Special Session on Children in Need held Oct. 4 at Louisiana College.



Photo by William Nolon

As part of the evaluation process, the Task Force welcomes attendees' input. If you have a comment or suggestion about any part of the Special Session, please send it to Leslie Akin, Task Force on Children in Need, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

In Dec., the Task Force will have a Planning Retreat to decide on follow-up measures for the Special Session and plan its 1998 "Youth in Crisis" activities. They will also be strategizing for the upcoming "People in Poverty" (1999) and "Families in Faith" (2000) themes.

Your comments and suggestions are also welcomed for this planning session, White says.



"Manners: Kindness in God's World" focused on helping children become kind human beings. Facilitating the session were: (l-r) Dr. Robert E. Taylor, Norma Taylor, a "stuffed" assistant, Nancy Coghill, and Addie Knickerbocker. A curriculum written especially for this session was given to everyone who attended the workshop.

Photo by Bobbie Armstrong

Workshops give 'handles' for effective outreach

by Henry C. Blount, Jr.

"It was a meeting that had some TEETH in it!" was one of the comments overheard following the workshop portion of the Special Session on Children in Need at Louisiana College on Oct. 4.

Over four thousand people selected two of twenty-six workshops presented by laity, clergy, doctors, counselors, social workers, behavioral psychologists, nurses and other specialists in various fields. Each dealt with an aspect of responding to children in need.

From the general comments collected, the workshops gave attendees "handles" on how to have more effective ministries for children in their local churches. Topics dealt with a wide range of health and welfare issues, including children facing the risk of addictions, information on adoption and foster care, ministering to the abused and neglected child, building more educational programs for children in the local church and meeting the needs of the gifted and talented child. These and many more topics were presented through skits, videos, round-table discussions, drama, role playing, puppets, etc.

The effectiveness of the workshops stemmed from the leadership's expertise, people who had "been there and done that." For example, Carol and Lamar White of Alexandria are the parents of a son with cerebral palsy. They led a workshop on ministering to the disabled child. Carol said that people were interested in how they could provide more programs for handicapped children in their church.

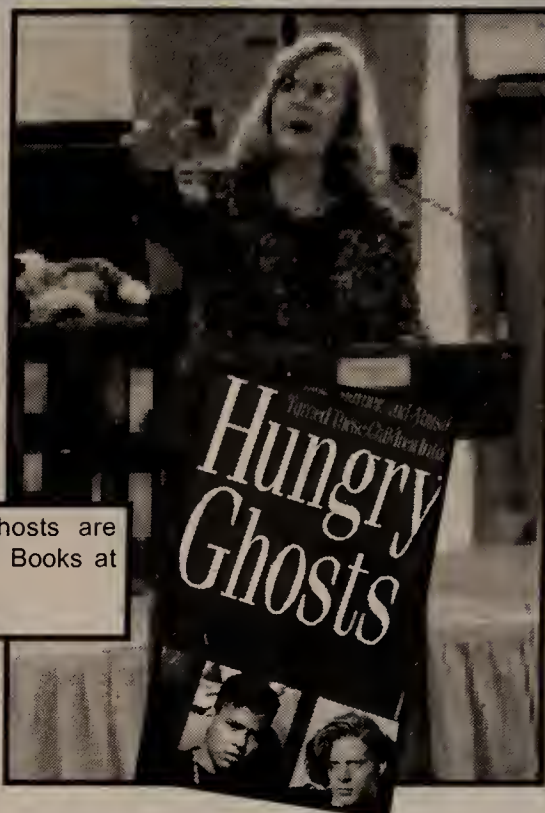
Dr. Robin Bennett, internist and nephrologist, was the convener for the session on counseling the terminally-ill child. Dr. Bennett's two-year-old son, David, died in 1989 from a brain tumor. This session was especially helpful for those who serve in hospice programs as well as other support groups.

Someone remarked, "I wish I could have attended all 26 workshops." This wish was anticipated because each session was recorded for future use, either by audio or video taping. Information about how to order will be available soon.

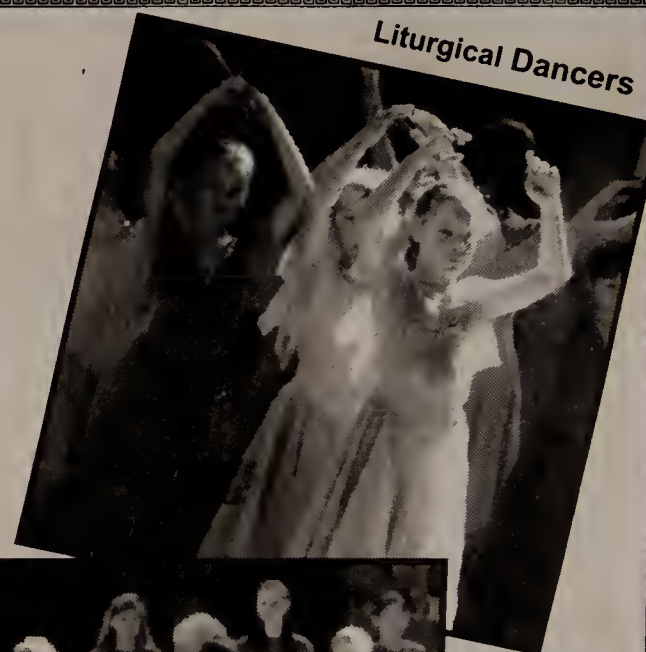


African Grief Dancers

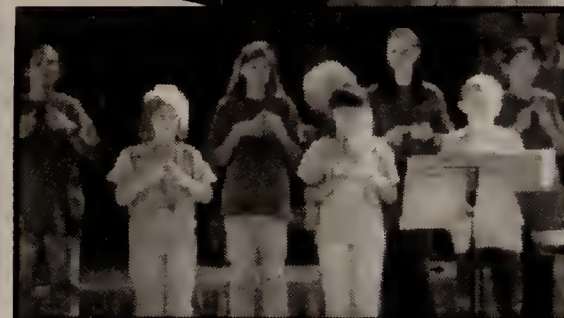
Copies of Hungry Ghosts are available from Cokesbury Books at (800) 672-1789.



Mary Taylor Previte



Liturgical Dancers

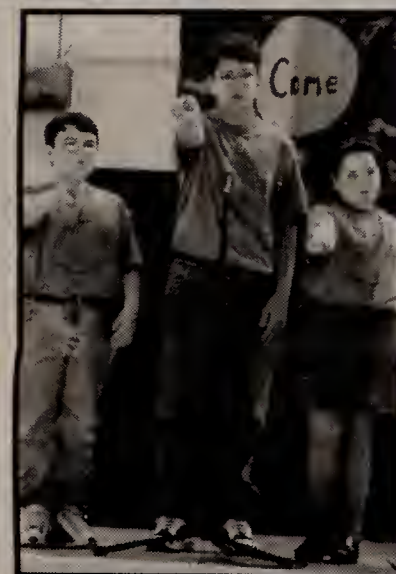


Signing Choir



Children's Choir . . . Waiting

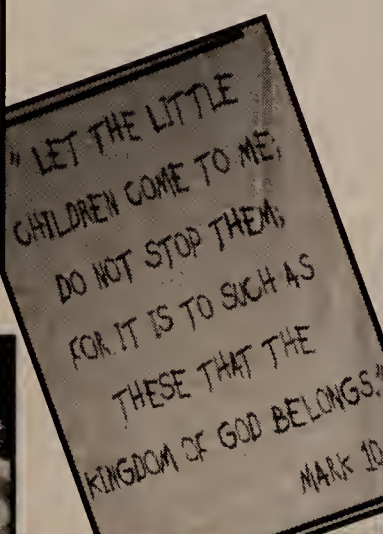
Special Session on Children in Need October 4, 1997 Louisiana College



Voices of Children



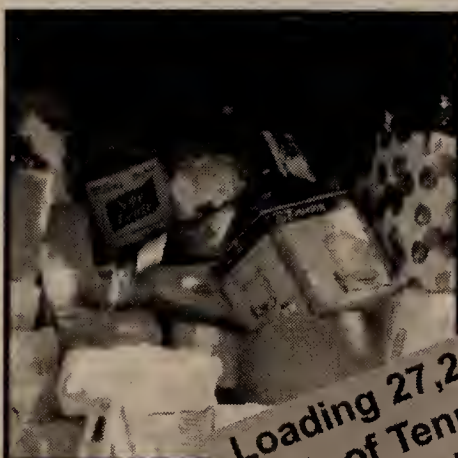
Children of the World



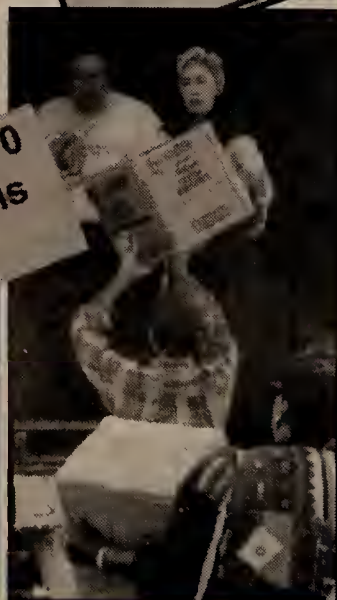
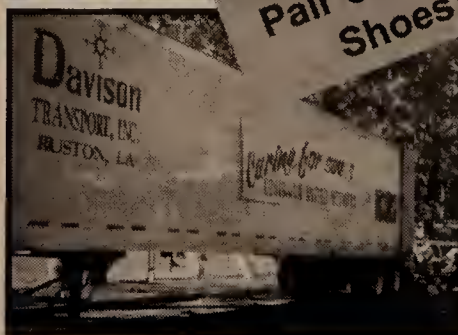
Joy Solomon



Banner Presentation



Loading 27,210 Pair of Tennis Shoes!



Volunteer Bus Drivers



An Audience Rejoicing

Photos on this page by Jimmie Pyles, Peter Harrington, William Nolan and Bobbie Armstrong.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Events

Editor's note:

Please send announcements about upcoming events at least one month in advance.

Collecting tennis shoes: Quilts to Kmart specials



Half the joy of collecting tennis shoes for children in Africa has been in the gathering efforts. Shopaholics and bargain hunters went wild. Bargain tables and shelves were cleared, "blue light specials" were tracked down, and deals with shoe department managers were made all over the state. "Yes, I do have a lot of children, and they all need shoes," and "Gimme every pair you've got," was said a lot. Everyone has a great story; we wish we could share them all. We can't, but here's a unique one:

The third grade Sunday school class at Henning Memorial UMC in Sulphur (pictured above) made a tennis

Picture this ...
Send us your news
(typed copy please) and
photos (color okay) to:
Bobbie Armstrong
Editor
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

shoe quilt in September (over several Sundays, and, yes, they actually stitched it themselves under the direction of Patricia Flint, Children's Ministries director.) The quilt was auctioned off at the church picnic Sept. 28 for \$270! Of course, the money was used to buy tennis shoes.

Great job, kids...and everyone.

Special Session from Page 1.

ing her left hand in an accident as a child and having her own father's love and support. "Well I don't know why not," he would say whenever she thought she could not do something or felt handicapped. "I was the inheritor of my father's words," Previte said, "and, so was Maria the inheritor of her father's words."

The final message was, "Be my model." Children do what they see their models doing, whether those models are their parents or the drug dealers who befriend them, she said. In her own childhood as the daughter of missionaries in China during World War II, she was separated from her parents for five-and-a-half years and a prisoner of war in a Japanese concentration camp for three years, but the teachers and missionaries who helped her through those times influenced the structure she used to set up her award-winning detention center.

In closing, Previte challenged each member of the audience to use his or her unique God-given gift to reach out and be there for a child. "I stand before you as a witness," she said, "and I say to you, 'we can change the shape of this mountain.'"

In his address to the Special Session attendees, Bishop Solomon focused on the theme: "Feed My Lambs" and explained how Methodism's founder, John Wesley, placed great importance on ministering to (and receiving grace from) children and the poor. "Like the early Methodists, children must be our priority," he said, indicating to the United Methodists gathered that children's ministries and outreach to children must take precedence over other "compulsions and obsessions" in a church. "In Louisiana," he said, "the crisis is not just among children, it is also among our United Methodist churches and our lack of children as part of the church. The crisis is not that there are no children around us; the crisis is,

we are not among them and they are not among us."

To give churches the tools needed to meet the challenge of reaching out to children, 26 workshops, led by national experts in the topics offered, were held on the campus and at nearby local churches covering a wide range of subjects such as addiction, ministering to abused and neglected children, using creativity for healing, and teaching life skills and manners. Everyone attended two workshops and churches were encouraged to send enough people to attend as many workshops as possible.

The Special Session closed with the bishop's charge to the Louisiana Conference to "be imitators of God. Let us leave this place with conviction deep in our souls and our very being to imitate gratefully and joyfully a God worthy for children to imitate." Six motions were made and approved which commit Conference members to study, support and lead Louisiana United Methodism in bold ministry with and for children. (Every congregation, regardless of size will have ministries specifically for children, locally and globally.)

The Louisiana Conference's support of the Bishops' Initiative has been led by a Task Force on Children in Need chaired by Mrs. Joanne White. Over four years, the Conference will focus on a different aspect of poverty beginning with this year's "Children in Need" (younger children). In 1998, the focus will be "Youth in Crisis;" 1999, "People in Poverty;" and in 2000, "Families in Faith."

Collection of tennis shoes by local United Methodists to bring to the Special Session has been a Conference-wide effort since June. The 27,210 pair of shoes collected on Oct. 4 will be added to about 2,000 pairs already at the UMCOR Depot, making the total pairs to be shipped to churches in Africa almost 30,000.



Nathan Daniels, pastor, St. James-Round Grove, Shreveport, brings tennis shoes for a child in Africa. Photo by Bobbie Armstrong

Conference Program Calendar

October

24-25 UMW District Elected Leaders' Training, Conference Center
25 Special Ministries Retreat, Wesley UMC, Baton Rouge, 9-3
27-28 Order of Elders Meeting, Conference Center, 12-noon to 12-noon

November

1-8 Council of Bishops
13-14 Cabinet Meeting
13-16 St. Gabriel Kairos #6
16-17 Fall Visit with Bishop Solomon and Joy for Retired Clergy, Conference Center
20-23 Cursillo #61, Conference Center
21-23 UMW Leadership Development Event, Chicago
22 Global Ministries Training Event, Trinity UMC, Alexandria, 10-2
22-25 Holy Boldness Urban Convocation, San Francisco

December

5-7 Conference Junior High Retreat, Conference Center
6 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
9-10 Cabinet Meeting

Noteworthy ...

The Annual Louisiana Conference Special Ministries Retreat will be held Saturday, Oct. 25 at Wesley UMC in Baton Rouge from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme is "Strengthening the Church for the 21st Century." Keynote speaker will be Rev. Warren G. Booker, district superintendent of the Mobile District of the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Workshops will cover tithing and stewardship, UM foundations, Volunteers in Mission, Shalom Zone and evangelism. Call Alonzo Campbell at (800) 239-5286 to register. Lunch will be provided.

They're coming! Dr. William Willimon (Oct. 22) and Dr. William Hinson (Nov. 18) to talk about "Preparing for a New Millennium: The Future of The United Methodist Church." Each speaker will present a lecture at First UMC, Baton Rouge, from noon to 1 p.m. (with one hour question and answer session after). Sponsored by UMM, First UMC, Baton Rouge. Advance tickets: \$5. Call (504) 383-4777 for information.

Will Willimon is an author and Duke University professor. Bill Hinson is senior pastor of First UMC, Houston.

Don't forget! The Louisiana Conference Town & Country Retreat is Oct. 20-21 at the Uskichitto Retreat Center in LeBlanc. The retreat will focus on the organizational structure of the Louisiana Chapter of the UM Rural Fellowship. Registration is \$25 (includes meals and lodging.) CEU: 1.0. Call Tom Bergeron at (318) 478-2290 to register.

Plan now! Linda Hair, Field Representative, South Central Jurisdiction of the General Board of Global Ministries, will be conducting a Training Event, Nov. 22 at Trinity UMC in Alexandria from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Sam and Janie Burch at (318) 439-8630 for details.

Louisiana Conference Edition of the

United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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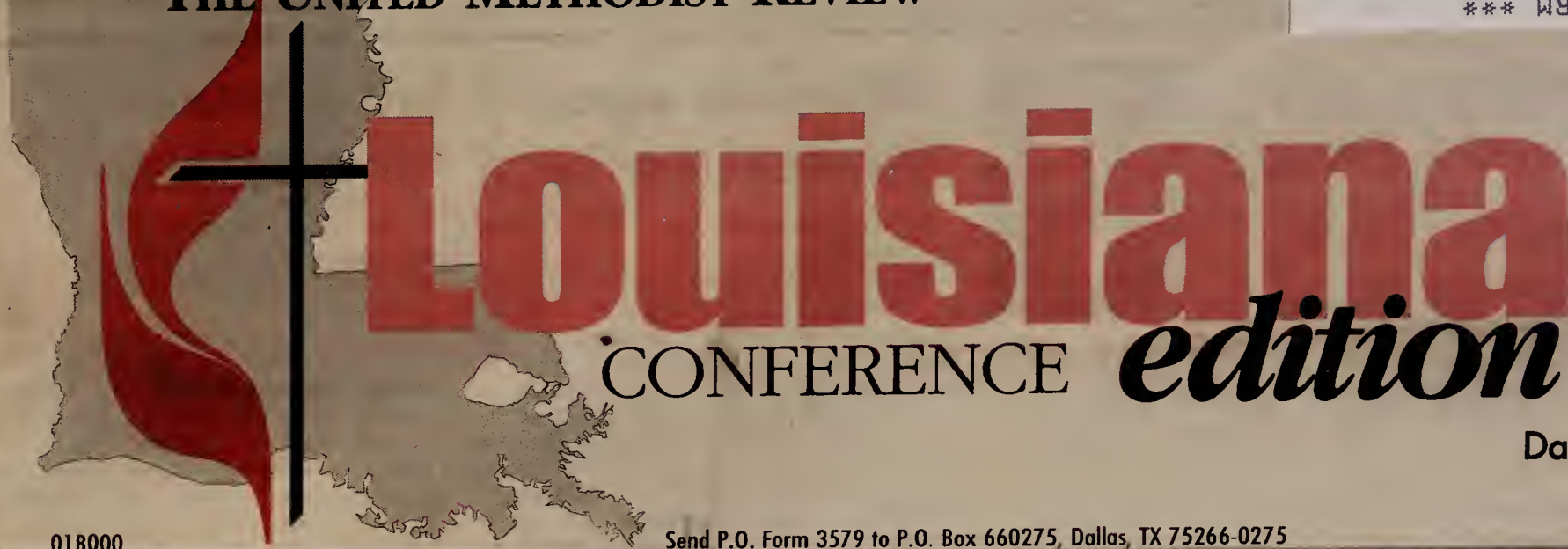
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October 31 Issue—October 20
November 14 Issue—October 31



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CONFERENCE *edition*

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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Vol 14 No 25 ■ Nov. 28, 1997

'Making Disciples: The Church in the 21st Century'

Seminar offers hope for churches' future

Photos for this story by Jimmie D. Pyles.

by Rev. Jon F. Tellifero

Chairperson, The Board of Discipleship
Louisiana Annual Conference

"There is hope for the church!"

That was the resounding message more than 130 participants from around the Louisiana Conference heard from Dr. Kennon L. Callahan, Dr. Ron Crandall and Bishop Dan E. Solomon at "Making Disciples: The Church in the 21st Century," a seminar held Nov. 14-15 at the Conference Center in Woodworth.

Dr. Callahan, director of the National Institute for Church Planning and Consultation in Dallas, focused on the mission of the church; the mission as it relates to buildings, the mission as it relates to its leadership and the mission as it relates to focusing on people. Dr. Crandall, professor at the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, discussed turnaround strategies for the church: turnaround churches, leaders who direct turnaround, and how turnarounds affect the church's members.

Friday evening, Bishop Solomon got

the weekend going with an excellent sermon on "Why I Have Hope for the Church?" Worship for the evening was led by Rev. Leslie Akin, Area Director of Gospel Communications for the Louisiana Conference. She was accompanied by Scott Sontag, adjunct professor of music at Louisiana College.

Participants responses to "Making Disciples" are unanimous: "It was absolutely outstanding!" says Rev. Jimmie Pyles, district superintendent, Ruston District. Others say:

"There is a new sense of hope and action. Our congregations can be vital. Working together ... hey, lookout!" Rev. Brian Yeich, pastor of Hodge - Dodson -



Participants at "Making Disciples" enjoy a meal at the Conference Center.

New Hope UM Charge.

"I thought it was exciting and innovative; there is not a church which cannot improve its efforts reaching people for Christ with the information presented." John Cunningham, chairperson of Evangelism, First UMC, DeRidder.

"This was an excellent experience for me and my lay leader. It brought into focus some things which I suspected. It will be most useful in my ministry." Rev. Warren Blakeman, pastor, St. Paul's UMC, Monroe.

"This was not about how to reach the 20-, 40-, or 80-year olds. This was about the motivations which cause people to be in mission for Christ and the motivations of why people follow Christ. It was inspirational!" Nancy Wofford, Minister of Education and Programs, First UMC, Alexandria.



Leaders for the event included: (l-r) Rev. Jon Tellifero, Dr. Ron Crandall, Bishop Dan Solomon, Joy Solomon, Dr. Ken Callahan, and Rev. Leslie Akin.

Planning for this event, designed to help churches organize for effective ministry, began more than three years ago by the Board of Discipleship under the leadership of Rev. Larry Robertson, then chairperson of Evangelism. Planning and implementation continued under the leadership of Dickie Davis, chairperson of Evangelism for the 1996 to 2000 quadrennium.

'Weaving the Fabric' offers threads for unity

by Anica A. Doyle

Scott UMC, Port Allen

Rev. Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz, South Central Jurisdictional representative from the General Commission on Religion and Race, led a workshop and training session entitled "Weaving the Fabric" designed to enhance inclusivity within the Louisiana Conference. The event was held Oct.31-Nov.1 at the Louisiana Conference Center in Woodworth.

Bishop Dan Solomon addressed the group on Saturday morning and encouraged dissolution of racism by developing a change in attitude and behavior through changed hearts and constructive action.

The program, developed for District Inclusivity Teams, offered ideas to help attendees initiate dialogue about issues of racism and inclusiveness within the



"Weaving the Fabric" attendees learn how to break barriers that keep congregations from experiencing oneness.

community of God and develop plans of action that will help dismantle racism and build inclusive communities of God in Louisiana's districts and congregations. The workshop demonstrated ways to prepare congregations to strive actively to break barriers that separate members and offered strategies for moving forward toward affirming our oneness in Christ.

Key issues addressed were assessment of our place in the journey toward that vision of oneness and our willingness to acknowledge prejudices. Rev. Pupo-Ortiz discussed actions to combat racism such as sharing among churches, implementing multi-racial churches, cross-racial appointments and diversity in kinds of ministries and worship to demonstrate congregations' openness to all people.

How was it?

"This training was good... a first step in coming together to bring about racial changes within the church and in the community."

Loyce Young, Camphor UMC, Baton Rouge

"I felt good about it. I think we're moving in the right direction." Rev. Jeff Conners, Carrollton-Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans.



UMNS photo by Tom McAnally

STORY TELLING (UMNS) - Children from North Carolina listen as Bishop Dan Solomon of Louisiana, with tennis shoes around his neck, tells how United Methodists in his Louisiana Area have contributed more than 30,000 pairs of such shoes to children in Africa. Several bishops shared with the children what is being done in their respective areas related to the Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty, launched in 1996. The council held its semi-annual meeting Nov. 1-7 at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

On the inside

- 2 Equipping Saints for Ministry
- 2 Agency Introduces Millenium Fund
- 3 Ten Tips for a Meaningful Christmas



Louisiana Volunteers in Mission page 3



Being and Doing

"Equipping the saints for the work of ministry."

We don't have the name, but we have the idea and the general direction.

As a result of an adopted proposal suggested by the Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry Quality Discernment Teams at Annual Conference, Louisiana United Methodism is about to launch an exciting, intensive, intentional "equipping" experience for clergy and lay leadership. One way that I have of describing this is, "equipping the equippers to equip the church for faithful mission." Obviously, the description is too long for a name, so perhaps you have a suggestion. If so, please send a card, letter, or make a call with your suggestion to Rev. Leslie Akin (504) 346-1646, ext. 220, by Monday, Dec. 8.

Now, let me try to describe in more detail this "equipping experience." We need to begin by focusing on the basic premise that Christ's work is to be done by all Christians. In other words, all of us who have given our life to Christ are ministers. Becoming a disciple means doing ministry. Clergy, church staff, and lay leadership are not persons identified to do the mission of Christ for the church, but persons identified to help the church do mission for Christ. Persons with leadership responsibility in the church have as their first priority helping the church claim and implement Christ's mission. Such leaders "partner," "coach," "encourage," help others discover their own spiritual gifts, "guide," and support others in living the gospel.

A second point to make is that a significant portion of leadership development needs to be contextual. While the seminary experience for clergy training is invaluable, it is insufficient. Additional "equipping" in a context that is experiential and saturated with peer learning is essential. Given the nuances of Louisiana life, "equipping" experiences can be

exceedingly worthwhile when they are set in the context of the particular emphases of the Louisiana Conference.

For "equippers" to be fruitful and to maximize their equipping gifts, there must be an intentional format for "equipping the equippers." For clergy and laity this will include spiritual growth and leadership skill development.

The first component of the "equipping" experience will be for clergy. There will be seminars, short-courses, and partner learning experiences. Much of the leadership will come from "those among us" who have developed their gifts and skills in particular areas. Also, leadership from outside Louisiana will be used frequently. Since a major responsibility for clergy is to "equip" the church for mission and ministry, the "equipping the equippers" experience will be foundational and essential. I have always been intrigued by John Wesley's phrase, "going on to perfection." What challenges me the most is not the focus on "perfection" which seems so ominous and unattainable, but the "going on," which immediately challenges and inspires me. It is the "going on" dimension of clergy leadership training that we plan to take seriously in the first track of the "equipping experience."

Now, having said all of this, we are still left searching for a name for the "experience." We know how to describe it, and in time we will discern what to call it. We are clear we don't believe the terms "school," "academy," or "institute" capture the experiential and contextual focus of the "equipping journey." However, whatever we call it, we in Louisiana United Methodism are going to take another bold step toward "equipping the saints for the work of ministry."

Dan E. Solomon

Spotlight on Children in Need

Editors note: Please let us know what your church is doing to reach Children in Need so we can share it with others in the Louisiana Conference.

Neely Reaches Kids with Tutorial Program

by Arnold W. Brown, pastor
Neely UMC, Baton Rouge

Exciting and life-changing ministry is taking place at Neely UMC, Baton Rouge. Four years ago we decided to answer a call from God to begin a tutorial program. There was apprehension at first. However, after prayer and reflection on the obvious need of the children in the community, the congregation decided to go ahead full speed. As a result of being faithful to the call of God, God has blessed our efforts tremendously.

Every Saturday from October to May, 1993-97, 45 to 60 students from kindergarten to 12th grade would come to the church for tutoring by church members who are school teachers. This October the program was expanded to five days a week. Test scores and report cards have reflected significant

progress by many of the participants.

In 1994, an additional aspect was added to the program. Seminars on teen pregnancy, drugs, violence, gangs, etc. were incorporated. The purpose is to increase self esteem and hope in the community children. The program continues to grow as God continues to bless.

The members of Neely realize that this project could not be a success without the support of the church on a national, conference and district level. Diaconal Ministry (through the General Board of Higher Education), Special Ministry (Conference) and Support Action (district) grants have helped us to continue to work as a connectional entity.

For details on this program, contact Brunetta Shamlin at (504)344-2050

Mission agency introduces millenium fund for mission

The General Board of Global Ministries, mission agency for the 8-million-member United Methodist Church, kicked off an ambitious program to open new doors to direct mission involvement for the entire church at its annual Board of Directors meeting in Stamford, Connecticut, Oct. 20-23.

Called the Millennium Fund for Mission, the initiative challenges conferences, districts, and churches to become active mission partners in projects aimed at building or rebuilding United Methodist churches in urban America, Africa, and Europe.

The program was developed as a faithful response to the many unprecedented events that have had an impact on United Methodist ministries. A chief feature of the program is its requirement that GBGM facilitate direct mission involvement by United Methodist conferences, districts and churches rather than manage the mission effort.

GBGM Board President Bishop Dan E. Solomon said, "The Millennium Fund both inspires and challenges. Its inspiration comes from United Methodist donors who continue to believe that we can and must, in Jesus' name, address spiritual need and suffering in the world. The fund also challenges us to bring United Methodists to a new level of response to the enormity of human need and the urgency of undergirding Christ's work by building and rebuilding United Methodist churches in places too often ignored or minimally resourced."

The mission agency will identify opportunities for annual conferences, districts, and local churches to commit

resources—including time, talent, and equipment, supplies, and promotional efforts—for church construction and renewal projects in the Central Conferences of Africa and Europe and in the urban centers of the United States.

The Millennium Fund will enable, indeed encourage annual conferences, districts, and local churches to share the burden by becoming mission partners in these places where people are struggling to build churches to house their faith communities and ministries. As the program progresses, all program areas of GBGM will be asked to identify ways in which United Methodists throughout the church can participate in the effort.

Funded with \$9-million in seed money from GBGM, the Millennium Fund for Mission is scheduled to continue through the quadrennium ending in the year 2004.



THE MILLENNIUM FUND
Established to respond to:
The displaced, refugees, church ministry needs in Africa, new church development in Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia, U.S. emergency problems of poverty, drug addiction and crime victimization.

THE CHALLENGE
The General Board of Global Ministries has set aside assets worth \$9 million to begin the Fund. Individual United Methodists, churches and conferences are challenged to respond with funds, volunteers, equipment, supplies and promotional clients.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Write to Millennium Fund
Room 300
General Board of Global Ministries
475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115
Call 212-870-3600 or 1-800-UMC-GBGM
E-mail: mlfund@gbgm-umc.org

A WORD TO WITNESS: "Pushy, pushy, pushy"

By Rev. Weldon C. Bares
Springhill United Methodist Church

I don't know about you, but I get tired of being pushed and cajoled by someone every time I turn around. I experienced this repeatedly during a visit to the mall in Bossier City the other day.

When I was purchasing a book at the bookstore, the clerk hounded me to buy a membership card allowing a discount on future purchases. I went to the cookie place and asked for one large chocolate chip cookie. The young lady behind the counter informed me that if I would buy two more cookies I would get another one free. I only wanted to buy and eat one cookie, but she was now pushing four cookies on me. When I declined, she smiled and slightly shook her head, as if to say, "what an idiot."

I bought an item at another place and the salesman did a hard sell on an extended warranty, which was nearly a third the cost of the original item. I heard the radio blaring in another store with a man in a car commercial

screaming at the top of his lungs about the great deals being offered.

I thought the movies might be a safe haven. Not quite. At the refreshment counter I ordered a small popcorn and a small soft drink. The young employee informed me that for only 25 cents more I could have a large drink. It seems like our society is so very pushy at every turn.

In stark contrast to that stands Jesus Christ. He doesn't raise his voice. He has no gimmicks. He doesn't pressure us. The Bible says that he stands at the door of our hearts and he knocks. He doesn't break the door down. He doesn't pound on the door. I believe that he knocks very gently. No pressure. No tricks.

He leaves it up to us . . . to let him in or not to let him in. I'm thankful for a Savior who is persistent, but never pushy.

Do you hear His quiet voice whispering your name today?

Editor's note: We invite you to share your Word of Witness with us. Send submissions to Editor, LUM Review, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

NAME THAT PAPER

We're still looking for your input about our name. Do you think we should change it to something else instead of *The Louisiana Conference Edition of The*

United Methodist Review?

Got a great idea for a name? Let us know. Write to: Editor, LUM Review, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.



Moments in Mission

Louisiana volunteers in mission
move mahogany mountains

Sarah Shoeffler, First UMC, Lafayette, recently returned from an Oklahoma Conference VIM-sponsored trip to Bolivia. She was part of a construction team restoring the roof on a 115-year-old Governor's Palace which had been given to Emanuel UMC in Cochabamba. Following is her witness:

Being assigned to the construction team, I took a deep breath and wondered how I could help build trusses from mahogany trees that had been cut down the day before and sawed into planks that day. They weighed at least a ton each! But it was amazing how we women teamed up with the women and children of Bolivia and our many hands moved that which seemed unmovable each day the lumber arrived.

Our work was hard and heavy as we hoisted up the beams and carried off the refuge from the adobe blocks and ceilings being torn down. The young Bolivians we worked with explained how the ceilings had been constructed to provide insulation. The fabric underlying the stucco had been tacked in place by thorns picked from a dangerous-looking bush that grew in the area. The next layer above an air space was made up of bamboo tied together with cowhide. On top of this went the beautiful tile roof. After 115 years, we were able to gather the thorns, bamboo and cowhide, in tact,



Sarah Shoeffler (left) prepares to affix rafters to a 115-year-old former Governor's Palace in Bolivia.

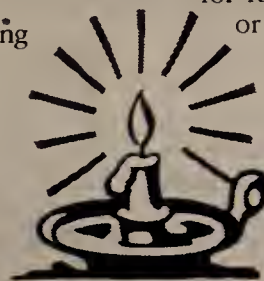
as keepsakes of a trip that would remind us of the thorns placed on our Savior's head. That same Savior had called us to Bolivia and joined us with brothers and sisters in Cochabamba to make a Christian difference among the people in that area.

As I reflect on this mission trip, I realize a job that I would have been defeated by at the onset was accomplished by working together, one brick at a time. May I always treasure this lesson of moving mountains.

Louisiana VIM will be sponsoring a medical mission trip to Colquearnaya, Bolivia in the fall of 1998. We are in need of medical personnel of all disciplines and Spanish translators. If you are interested, contact Rev. Larry D. Norman at (504) 356-4459 or Email at LduckN@AOL.com.

Ten tips for a simpler, more
meaningful Christmas!

1. Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto pilot the day after Thanksgiving, hold a family meeting to decide what the group really wants to do and who's going to do what.
2. If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Wise Ones), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce.
3. Avoid debt. Refuse to be pressured by advertising to overspend.
4. Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same as they have been.
5. Draw names rather than everyone giving to everyone else in your giving circle. Set a ceiling for each recipient. Give children ONE thing they really want, rather than so many gifts. If need be, pool funds.
6. Give appropriate gifts. Get to know the recipient. Give what they need, not what you want to buy.
7. Give alternative gifts. Give 25% of what



you spent last year to the truly needy...individuals or groups locally, nationally or internationally...Give of yourself, not just stuff--a coupon book for future services (such as babysitting or "an enchanted evening") or something baked, sewn, handmade, composed, etc.

8. Celebrate Advent for four weeks before Christmas.
9. Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked.

10. Make a change slowly, but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance may make you feel defeated and lonely.

For more help and a free catalog of ideas, contact Alternatives for Simple Living at 800-821-6153.

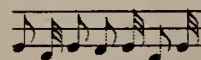
Reprinted from *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?*

Prayer and fasting days called for UMC

Organizations all across The United Methodist Church are calling for prayer and fasting Dec. 1-3 for the UMC.

All United Methodists are invited to join the effort and pray that God will pour out a spirit of revival on the UMC which will result in the transformation of lives, churches, communities, and our nation.

MUSICAL Notes



The Louisiana Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and the Worship Arts will sponsor its second annual Fellowship Choral Festival at Asbury UMC in Lafayette Jan. 31, 1998, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, director of music at First UMC, Baton Rouge, will be the clinician for the festival.

The gathering is open to all choirs in the Louisiana Conference. Each choir will be responsible for ordering and learning assigned music. Cost is \$6 per chorister and includes lunch. Registration deadline is Jan. 26. Contact Lee Cooke, president of the Louisiana Chapter, at (318) 984-4211 for a list of music and registration forms.

The General Board of Global Ministries is sponsoring a "youth mission chorale" whose participants will share their faith through music, drama, personal experience and witness during a six-week tour of Russia and the Baltic States May 30-July 15, 1998.

The board is seeking 16-20 United Methodist college students to form the chorale. Up to four instrumentalists--piano, keyboard, guitar--also may be selected.

For more information, contact Rev. S.T. Kimbrough, associate general secretary for mission evangelism, at (212) 870-3914. **Deadline to apply is Dec. 15.**

Correction

In the Nov. 14 issue of the Review, "Louisiana volunteers journey to Bolivia" (page 3) we identified Jim Martin as a doctor. He is a physician's assistant.

You're
Invited!

Volunteers in Mission Banquet

Sunday, February 8, 1998 ♦ Conference Center ♦ 4 to 7 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Bishop Dan E. Solomon ♦ Reservations required
Call 1.888.239-5286 (Janice Johnson), Ext. 226, for reservations.
E-mail: laumc@premier.net

UMCOR Christmas Wish List

This holiday season, let's wish for a Christmas that truly honors the birth of Jesus, and shows our concern for the family of God. Let's remember God's greatest gift by giving to others in Christ's name.



Listed below is a "wish list" of gifts that can be given through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through these gifts, United Methodists can respond to Christ's command to feed the hungry, care for the sick, comfort the heart broken and welcome the stranger in our midst.

\$1-- Serve a child one hot meal a day (UMCOR #418790-2)

\$1--Ten seedlings will be planted to reforest a hillside or field laid waste by erosion (UMCOR # 154725-1)

\$5--Immunize a child against tuberculosis, measles, polio, tetanus and other diseases (UMCOR #982400-7)

\$10--Provide blankets, food and water for a victim of disaster in the United States (UMCOR #901670-1)

\$10--Tents, water purification tablets and blankets comfort an international

victim of disaster (UMCOR #982450-8)

\$15--Provide a camping experience for a mentally and physically challenged refugee child (UMCOR #629795)

\$15--Teach a woman to read (UMCOR #229500-8)

\$20--Help a refugee return home or find safety in a new one (UMCOR #982540)

\$20--Support hunger projects in the United States and throughout the world (UMCOR /3982920-4)

\$30--Help ship material resources (like blankets, medical supplies, hygiene articles) where they are needed (UMCOR #982730-7)

One hundred percent of your gift goes to the program you choose. Alternative gifts can be sent to your local church or annual conference. Gifts may also be sent to UMCOR, Advance GCFA, General Board of Global Ministries, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068. Please include the program's code number on the check or attached letter.

Reprinted from *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?* by Alternatives for Simple Living.

IN
MEMORIAMOUR PRAYERS AND
CONDOLENCES GO TO:

the wife (Ruth) and family of Rev. James W. "Bill" Matthews, Jr., retired (Shreveport District), who died Nov. 9 of a heart attack. His funeral was held Nov. 11 in Shreveport.

Rev. Kenneth Chapman, retired (Acadiana District), on the death of his wife, Mary, who died Nov. 5. Her funeral was held Nov. 8 at First UMC, Eunice.

Dr. Kenneth Schwab, president, Centenary College, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Verba Jean Blume Schwab, on Nov. 6. Mrs. Schwab was buried in Wolcott, Indiana, their hometown. A memorial fund in her name has been set up at Centenary.

the wife (Gladys) and family of Rev. Garland C. Dean, Jr., retired (Shreveport District), who died Nov. 18. His funeral was held Nov. 20 at Noel UMC in Shreveport and he was buried in Colfax.

the family of Virginia Wallace Haynes, surviving spouse of Rev. Benjamin J. Haynes (Shreveport District), who died July 21 in San Diego. Her funeral and burial was in Shreveport July 26.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

Let's connect . . .

Send us your news (typed copy please) and photos (color okay) to:

Bobbie Armstrong
Editor
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

DeRidder First UMC makes a difference in a day

On Saturday, Oct. 25, members of First UMC, DeRidder (pictured right), joined others in the nation for "Make A Difference Day" by delivering three car loads of supplies to the June Jenkins Shelter for Women and Children, a local home for victims of domestic violence.

Items on the center's "Needs List" were donated by church members. Items included sheets, bedspreads, cooking utensils, personal care items, boys' clothing, paper goods and soap, as well



as food and a toy chest. Monetary value of the items was \$500.

Covenant pays by 'First Fruits'

For the first time since 1984, the Covenant United Methodist Church in Lafayette (Acadiana District) has paid its apportionments, both conference and district, in full.

The church achieved success by using the "First Fruits" method of giving.

Shown in the photo (right) from left to right are District Superintendent Terry Willis, Church Treasurer John Redd, Pastor Ralph Ford, Board Chair Herb



Thompson, Stewardship Chair Jon Harkreader, Finance Secretary Jeanne Boniol, and Lay Leader Donn Chadick.

Westlake holds Christian service

On Saturday, Nov. 8, more than 1,000 Christians from 25 churches of all denominations in Westlake came together for the soul purpose of worshipping Jesus Christ.

A 150-member choir supported the two and a half hour non-denominational service, which included testimony from four individuals.

"This one night," says Rev. Steven J. Porter, pastor, Westlake UMC, "God led his people to worship Him. We did and we were blessed!"

Nolley UMC celebrates Children's Sabbath

Nolley UMC, Jena, celebrated Children's Sabbath Sunday Nov. 9.

During the morning worship service, children participated as liturgists, ushers, and choir members and led prayers. The theme for the day's celebration was the Children's Defense Fund theme: "Seeking Shalom: Healthy Children, Healthy Nation."

Special "Pray for a Child" requests have been posted as a reminder of the church's goal to stay focused on children.

Noteworthy for the holidays.....

➤ **First UMC, Welsh**, will host its **Third Annual Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the First UMC Women of Welsh, **Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** A variety of crafters will be on hand with paintings, china-painted items, pottery, angels, wreaths, swags, homemade suckers, earrings, bows, and country crafts. Admission is free and lunch will be available. The church is located at the corner of N. Adams and Beaufort Streets. Call Ava Pugh at (318) 734-3575 or Ora Belle Compton at (318) 734-2743 for information.

➤ On **Sunday, Dec. 7**, the **St. Charles UMC choir, Destrehan**, will present the musical narrative, **"I Have Seen the Light," The Search for Christmas**, created by Deborah Craig-

Clair, arranged by Camp Kirkland and distributed by Word Music. **Performance times will be 10:50 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** There is no admission charge; offerings will be accepted. The church is located at 1905 Ormond Blvd. Bring a friend and begin your holiday season with the Spirit. Contact the church at (504) 764-8292 for information.

➤ **Looking for a worthy cause to support this holiday season?** The **Uptown UM Men of Carrollton and Napoleon UMCs**, New Orleans, are raising funds for a Westar security system for **Peoples Community Center**. Send your checks (marked "Security System") to UM Men, Carrollton UMC, 921 Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118. Attention: John Loggins.

St. Mark UMC reaches out with job fair

Taking to heart Bishop Solomon's suggestion at Annual Conference for local churches to have "outcomings" instead of homecomings, St. Mark UMC, Baton Rouge, held a Community/Church Jobs Taste Fair Sunday, Nov. 2.

The goal of this initiative, says Dollene Sims, chair of St. Mark's stewardship ministry, was to reach out to the Glen Oaks community where the church is located, to members of the church and to anyone wishing to apply for work as a disciple of Jesus Christ. It was designed to help all participants discover ways to work for Jesus Christ while experiencing the joy of sharing with others. Participants did not have to be members of St. Mark, it was stressed, in order to attend the fair or apply for work, she says. Joining St. Mark's church family would follow, perhaps, after a participant got involved in the ministry.

Several methods were used to reach the community, she says. They included letters to community leaders from the pastor

seeking their participation and cooperation, letters to a random sampling of church and community members, fliers distributed in the neighborhood by the boy scouts, radio spots recorded and phone calls made by members of a telephone ministry.

The fair was held immediately after church from 1-3 p.m. Attendees were given name tags. Representatives from 52 ministries (jobs) were seated at tables under tents adorned with balloons. As each guest visited a ministry, they were given a brief explanation about that ministry, a written job description and a taste of food. Everyone was urged to enjoy the food and take their folders home to study, pray and ask God's guidance: Which job would be right for me for 1998?

Throughout November and December, attendees can sign up for the job of their choice before or after church services at a manned table in the fellowship hall. Phone calls will be made to those who did not attend to let them know they can still get the information and sign up. Home visits will also be scheduled for those who are not able to get to the church. On the first Sunday in January, all of the applications will be consecrated at a covenant Sunday service.

Although the results won't be known until January, Sims says, "regardless of the number responding, this marks the beginning of a very exciting and rewarding way of reaching out to the community. We have made new contacts, new friends and the church and community have learned they can fellowship together. This kind of relationship can make a difference in a community, ultimately making new disciples for Christ."

Mt. Zion awards scholarships

Mt. Zion UMC, New Orleans, recently awarded \$8,220 in scholarships for the 1997-98 school year to nine students.

The students are: Rudy Bennett, Naja Clanton, Kenisha Henderson, Janelle Johnson, Gemaule Mayberry, Melanie McGarry, Joseph Melton, Robert Owens and Robin Owens.

Louisiana Conference Edition
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United Methodist Review
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Leslie N. Akin, Director,
Gospel Communications
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On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

DEADLINE FOR:

December 12 Issue — December 1
December 26 Issue — December 15

Conference Program Calendar

December

- 2 Tri-district Audit Training, Ruston Children's Home, 11 a.m.
- 4 Tri-district Audit Training, Lafayette District Superintendent's Office, 11 a.m.
- 4 Annual Conference Worship Committee, Conference Center, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- 5 Children in Need Task Force, Conference Center, 10 a.m.
- 5-7 Conference Junior High Retreat, Conference Center
- 6 Conference Center Board Meeting, Conference Center, 12 noon
- 6 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 9-10 Cabinet Meeting
- 11 Foundation Investment Committee, Conference Office, 10 a.m.

January 1998

- 10 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 12-13 Cabinet Meeting

January cont'd

- 16-17 Happening #11, Conference Center
- 17 Louisiana Task Force on Prison Ministry, 10:30 a.m., Conference Center

- 22-25 Cursillo #62, Conference Center
- 25 UM Women's Sunday

February

- 6-8 Conference Senior High Retreat, Conference Center
- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 8 VIM Gathering and Banquet, Conference Center, 4-7p.m.
- 12-13 Cabinet Meeting, Conference Center
- 13-15 National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, Nashville, TN
- 25 Ash Wednesday

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Louisiana

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Vol 14 No 26 ■ Dec. 12, 1997

Yocom to lead Mission Resourcing

Former GBGM associate general will assist in conference restructuring

by Bobbie Armstrong
LUM Review Editor

With major structural changes in the works, the Louisiana Conference was in need of and in prayer for a strong missional leader. That leadership has arrived.

Dr. Rena Yocom has been appointed as a consultant to direct Mission Resourcing for the new District Ministry Teams (DMT) structure which takes effect conference-wide Jan. 1, 1998.

Having recently left a seven-year stint as an associate general secretary with The UMC's General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) in New York, Rena is a perfect choice for this challenging and important role in the Louisiana Conference.

"We are quite excited about the unique gifts for ministry and the remarkable mission perspective possessed by Rena Yocom," says Bishop Dan Solomon. "Her ability to connect the local church with mission will energize churches and change lives. She personifies the mission passion that represents Louisiana United Methodism's direction and determination."

As a consultant for Mission Resourcing, Rena will be working with district committees to select and train missionaries, the new key position created by the restructuring. She also will be working with Rev. Leslie Akin, director of Gospel Communications, to train the DMTs. Another focus for her will be to provide leadership for the conference's implementation of the Bishop's Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty.

Yes, Rena will be a busy person, but "busy" is what she's used to. While at the GBGM, she was in charge of mission education, mission cultivation and communication and this last year, the Mission Contexts and Relationships program area. Her responsibilities included implementing the "Religious Digest" radio program in Russia, overseeing the publication of over 500 print resources annually, and coordinating both Global Gathering '93 and Global

Gathering III. In addition, she is president of the World Association for Christian Communication-North American region- and vice president of its world executive committee; chair of the Board of Publications for the American Society of Missiology; and serves as a member of an advisory board for the American Bible Society.



Dr. Rena Yocom

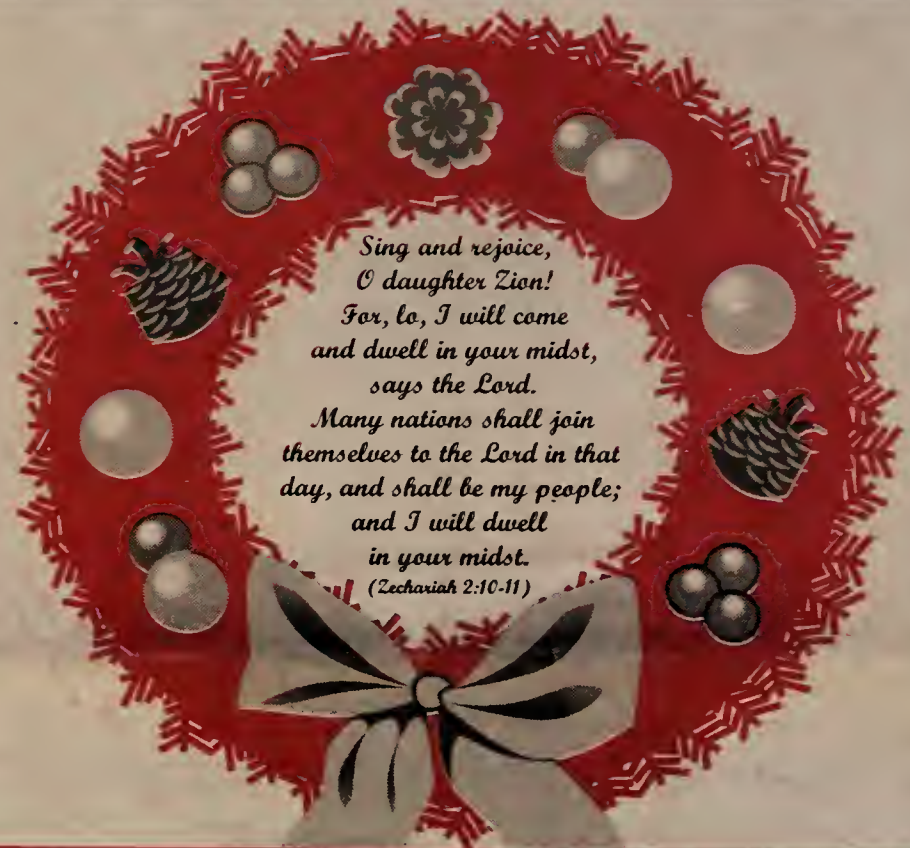
Prior to joining the GBGM in 1990, Rena, a permanent deacon, spent 25 years in local churches in Missouri and Kansas as a Christian educator. During that time she chaired the first division of diaconal ministry for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (1976-80) and was vice president of the National Council of Churches of Christ for the USA (1984-87).

Rena has a bachelor's degree from Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri; a master of divinity degree from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri and a doctor of ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in California.

In addition to her successful career, Rena and her husband Larry reared a daughter, Joy, and a son, Ryan, and also now enjoy an 18-month-old grandson, Tanner, who all live back home in Kansas. Larry is a couple of years short of retiring as a school counselor, so they commute on occasional weekends and holidays.

"I'm excited about what's happening in Louisiana," Rena says. "I see a lot of caring, active United Methodists tending to the spiritual and physical needs of God's children around the world. I believe Louisiana will be a 'pacesetter' for others as we forge a new approach to mission and stay 'connected' in more meaningful ways."

"If you haven't met her, meet her..." says Leslie Akin. "You'll be blessed! Rena's passion for mission, contagious joy and extensive experience in leading the global church will be a welcomed gift for the Louisiana Conference."



Sing and rejoice,
O daughter Zion!
For, lo, I will come
and dwell in your midst,
says the Lord.
Many nations shall join
themselves to the Lord in that
day, and shall be my people;
and I will dwell
in your midst.
(Zechariah 2:10-11)

Retired clergy fellowship, worship with bishop, Joy

Photos for this story by Dr. James Caraway.

by Dr. James Caraway

The retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses of the Louisiana Conference met for a fall retreat with Bishop and Mrs. Dan Solomon at the Louisiana Conference Center on November 16 and 17.

The focus of the retreat was to have an experience of fellowship, worship, and learning with our bishop and his wife, Joy. Over 100 attendees enjoyed a renewed spiritual experience which included good singing, food and fun.

A brief time was given for up-to-date information on The UMC Board of Pensions insurance program and also information on the work of the United Methodist Foundation and how the Foundation relates to the retired clergy and surviving spouses of the Louisiana Conference.

This special event was sponsored by The Louisiana Conference Board of Pensions and the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana.



Enjoying the good food and fellowship at the Conference Center are (l-r) Joy Solomon, Saroj Welch, Rev. Carlos Welch and Bishop Dan Solomon.



Mrs. Louise Thomas and Rev. Fulton Raymond, Sr. were crowned queen and king by the group.

On the inside

- 2 A Christmas Invitation
- 2 Tennis shoes bound for Africa
- 2 Where the Messiah Is: Reflections



UMCOR practicing what they preach page 3



'Yourself'

"What to give?

What is sufficient?

What is appropriate?"

"Eternal God,

by the birth of Jesus Christ

You gave YOURSELF to the world."

*"We give you thanks
for this Holy Mystery
in which you have given*

YOURSELF to us."

**Christmas' Invitation:
Give yourself**

Help us, God, so to do.



Joy and Dan Solomon

Conference tennis shoes destined for Africa

The 30,000 pairs of tennis shoes collected by local churches in the Louisiana Conference for the Special Session on Children in Need last October have been assigned destinations in Africa and will be shipped from the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin as soon as possible.

Following are the amounts and locations:

Congo-Kinshasha

Schools (primary and secondary)
and Street Ministry to street children
5,000 pairs

Senegal

Refugee Program
and Wellness Program 6,000 pairs

Mozambique

Orphans 1,000 pairs
(These shoes will be hand-carried by a
Volunteers in Mission team.)

Angola

East Angola orphans 2,000 pairs
West Angola Children Centers
6,000 pairs

Liberia

Operation Classroom and
Relief and Development Program
10,000 pairs



Where the Messiah is

Reflections for Advent and the Christmas Season

by Milo and Connie Thornberry

Wednesday, December 24, 1997

Read Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20

The waiting is almost over. Tonight is the night when Advent waiting will be transformed into joyous Christmas celebration. We read Isaiah's words again and anticipate their fulfillment: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." But not everyone sees the "great light" or senses the joy. For every harmonious gathering, there is a painful lonely hour just across the street or down the hall. For every delightful gift exchange, there is some fresh hurt unwrapped or some sharp word which cuts to the heart. For all the joy in every corner of the world tonight, there is also the pain of a bleak future.

We who tell and celebrate the story on this night should not be surprised, nor should we pretend it is otherwise. When it all began there was cruel isolation. Young Mary and puzzled Joseph must have suffered many a stare. The edict of Caesar Augustus that brought the family to Bethlehem—enrollment so that this colonial people could pay taxes and soldiers be conscripted for Caesar's armies—was not a happy one. For all the wonder of the shepherds and magi there was hostility and death, the rage of Herod, the grief of the other mothers of Bethlehem. Some sang songs of praise while others wailed

laments.

Christmas is a wonderful season, unparalleled in the possibilities for reconciliation, for healing, for generosity and for great joy. When those gifts flow freely for you, look around and listen well. Just across the way, or across the table, or one phone call away are those for whom all is not joyful. You can pay attention and signal, "Yes, I understand." And as you do, you will help keep alive hope in those who feel no joy on this night.

Christmas joy, after all, was not a matter of heaviness of the world suddenly being lifted, not for Isaiah, not for those gathered in Bethlehem around the manger, nor for us. It is not true that where the Messiah is there is no suffering. What is true is that wherever there is suffering, there is the Messiah. And so on this night we celebrate the arrival of a Presence, a Divine Solidarity in all our solitude and pain. It was, is, and ever shall be Joy to the world, even when it hurts. Tonight we light our candles in the deep winter darkness knowing God is with us in Jesus, the incomparable Light, whom we are privileged to share.

Reprinted from "Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?" by Alternatives for Simple Living, 1997 UMCOR Edition.



FLIGHT INTO EGYPT— "...the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying 'Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt...' (Mark 2:13). Ceramic by St. Andrew's Abbey, Valyermo, Calif., courtesy of The Upper Room Chapel and Museum, Nashville, Tenn.

A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.



Moments in Mission

Louisiana Volunteers in Mission: HPI experience changes youth's life

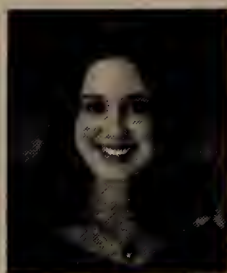
by Lane Winn
President, CCYM

I have been a volunteer in mission since before I had any idea what that was all about. My parents took me along as a child and I still remember those as fun times.

The real meaning of mission work did not become evident to me until several years ago when I spent a week with about thirteen friends from my own youth group and groups from other parts of the country at HPI (Heifer Project International) in Perryville, Arkansas. The Heifer Project is designed to help people in third world countries by providing them with essential food and, hopefully, show them how to produce what they need for daily living on their own.

In order to do this we had to have some idea of what it was like to live in a third world country. My youth group spent a week harvesting fields, feeding farm animals, painting fences, fixing and renovating HPI dormitories. Although this sounds like a lot of manual labor, it had a spiritual side, too. It was all very experiential.

My own youth group became closer throughout the trip. Any kind of missional task can become a group-builder because



Lane Winn

each individual must set aside pride, selfishness, and fear. HPI was a life-changing event for me, because I am now a vegetarian due to the experience. For me, that has become a good way to care for myself and my neighbor. Mission trips always help me define myself more as a person, as a responsible member of a world society, and as a Christian.

Becoming a volunteer in mission does not require a ten-hour church van trip or a journey to a far off place. The mission can be right on our doorstep or even within ourselves.

Louisiana VIM is sponsoring a fact-finding trip to Mexico Feb. 2-6, 1998. The group will visit potential sites for medical and construction trips as well a proposed site for a medical clinic. Lay and clergy volunteers are invited. The cost is \$300 with a \$50 deposit due Dec. 15. Please call Dr. Alonzo Campbell at (888) 239-5286 if you are interested.

Practicing what they preach: UMCOR helps those most in need

by Thomas Buckley
Special to the LUM Review

BALDWIN — Among the many tenets of Christianity, compassion for those in need is one of the most important. Through parables such as the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus Christ taught His flock to always extend a hand to the less fortunate, the troubled, the hurt.

One of The United Methodist Church's ways of following that call is through its Committee on Relief, known as UMCOR. A division of The UMC's General Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR utilizes the facilities of a pioneer Methodist ministry at Sager-Brown in Baldwin to operate a depot for world relief supplies as well as a disaster response training center.

From natural disasters like hurricanes to man-made horrors such as the war in Bosnia and the punishing hunger in North Korea, UMCOR workers have been responding to desperate situations around the world for 20 years.

In late November, about 100 UMCOR catastrophic disaster team members from all over the U.S. gathered at the Sager-Brown Center, managed by Rev. Robert Osgood, to learn how better to cope with all kinds of disaster relief work.

This year's training focus, said UMCOR Office of Emergency Services chief Lloyd Rollins, was the need for relief workers to be sensitive to the wide variety of cultural differences they will encounter in their work.

"All of those kinds of issues, class conflict, race, etc., are heightened by disaster," Rollins said. "The poor always seem to be the hardest hit because they are the most vulnerable." Rollins said the training emphasized a theologically-based "image of the ideal," and made the relief workers look at themselves and think how they would like to be treated in such a situation.

UMCOR teams work with governmental aid agencies and other relief groups, such as the Red Cross, to provide immediate assistance. But, says soon-to-be retired chief of U.S. disaster relief efforts Virginia Miller, UMCOR is about more than just meeting the short-term physical needs of disaster victims.

For example, after UMCOR's initial relief response to Hurricane Andrew, it stayed and is still renovating houses not even damaged by the storm. In fact, the creation of the UMCOR Depot, the giant warehouse that accepts and re-packages relief items such as medical supplies and food, grew directly from the Andrew relief effort. "The church always discovers other needs when working in disaster response," Rollins said.

Miller, one of the creators of that philosophy, agreed, saying UMCOR offers long-term emotional support as well as physical support. "The spiritual and emotional needs are as big or bigger than the physical needs," Miller explained.

"The main thing the church has to offer is hope. The people know that it has been there and always will be there to stand with them."

UMCOR will spend nearly \$11 million this year to keep that commitment. Leon and Bonnie Adkins, volunteer deputy general secretaries for health and relief, said the money goes to such varied projects as well-digging in Haiti, housing in Guatemala, help for victims of a recent tornado in Alabama, and a new roof for a school in Lithuania.

"Part of the mission of Jesus Christ is one of helping those in need," said Leon Adkins, a retired pastor. "This work is an enactment of that commandment."

UMCOR gets a great deal of its money through an annual One Great Hour of Sharing collection taken in United Methodist congregations during Lent each year, with other funds coming from direct appeals to congregations for specific projects. Adkins said practically 100 percent of all of the money that passes through UMCOR's hands goes to the actual project with little taken off

for overhead or paying the permanent staff of about 30 people.

UMCOR has the ability to respond quickly to almost any request. The day before the weekend training session began, Adkins said they received an urgent call from Mozambique for help with an outbreak of cholera. By Monday, supplies such as water purifiers and such were in the air headed to the African nation.

That combination of speed and persistence makes UMCOR different, said Bonnie Adkins. "The relationship that develops over time is very special," Adkins said. "This summer we went to Bosnia and re-visited places we had worked at in the past. We met a woman whose house we had helped re-build. She just looked at us, stunned, and said 'Nobody ever comes back!'"

Another project is the effort to help feed the starving millions in North Korea. Larry Powell, UMCOR's international relief point-man, recently returned from that troubled land and is now working to send 100 tons of rice and 2,000 tons of salt there by the end of the year.

"The situation is very critical, very difficult," Powell said. "The average food ration is about 300 grams per person, or one cup of rice per day."

But in every difficult situation, joy can be found. Powell remembers the feeling of awe upon hearing the talking drums in Africa. Each morning before sunrise, he says, chains of drums miles apart would relay the call to daily worship.

"The sound just washed over me," Powell said. "...just as UMCOR has washed over so many lives."

Thomas Buckley is the Iberia Bureau editor of The Daily Advertiser, a newspaper in Acadiana.

Coming
Soon!

Volunteers in Mission Banquet

Sunday, February 8, 1998 ♦ Conference Center ♦ 4 to 7 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Bishop Dan E. Solomon ♦ Reservations required
Call 1.888.239-5286 (Janice Johnson), Ext. 226, for reservations.
E-mail: laumc@premier.net

Assets total more than \$1 billion

Foundation Executives Hold Denver Meeting

by Ray Caraway

Associate Director, UM Foundation of Louisiana

Dr. Kenneth R. Reed, executive director of the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana, attended a meeting of the National Association of United Methodist Foundations held November 5 - 9, in Denver, Colorado. Reports submitted at the conference showed that United Methodist foundations in the United States now manage over one billion dollars in assets and are growing rapidly.

According to Dr. Reed, the annual meeting serves as an educational tool and as a means of holding individual foundations accountable. Each of the

foundations represented at the conference submitted budget information and a report detailing growth over the last year. Of the 46 foundations submitting reports, the Louisiana Foundation ranked third in asset growth and seventh in total assets under management.

"The meeting was a great opportunity to learn more about the work being done by other United Methodist Foundations," said Dr. Reed. "I believe the statistics are a good reflection on our foundation and the strength of Methodism in our state."



IN MEMORIAM

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES GO TO:



Rev. James Ailor, retired pastor (Baton Rouge District), on the death of his sisters, Mrs. Mary Frances Shanks (85), and Mrs. Georgia Ellington (83) Dec. 2. They lived in Indiana and Missouri and both passed away on the same day.

Mrs. Peggy Hall, wife of Dr. Don Hall, Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge District, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Bessie Kirkland, Nov. 21. Her funeral was held Nov. 24 in Liberty, Miss.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS



'Leaves of Gold' Retreat held in Arkansas

Pictured at right are a group from Louisiana Methodists who attended "Leaves of Gold" Senior Retreat at Mt. Sequoyah Assembly in Fayetteville, Ark. during a brilliant changing of the leaves this fall.

Rev. Don Morgan, Palestine UMC, Pineville, led the group of participants from Pineville, Ponchatoula and Lafayette.



Volunteers in Mission help UMCOR



A Volunteers in Mission team of youth and adults from First UMC, Natchitoches, arrive for work at the UMCOR Depot at Sager-Brown in Baldwin. The team checked and re-packed boxes for famine

relief bound for North Korea. They also sorted and packed boxes of tennis shoes destined for Africa. The group was led by Rev. Doug Cain, pastor, and Sang Eckerle, youth director.

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DEADLINE FOR:

December 26 Issue — December 15
January 9 Issue — December 29

FUMC Monroe burns note



First UMC, Monroe, celebrated worship Oct. 5 with a "note burning."

The sanctuary, built during the pastorate of Dr. Odell Simmons, was dedicated by Rev. Marie Williams, Monroe District Superintendent.

Participating in the service were (l-r) Rev. Terry Love, Rev. Wishy Nolan, Rev. Williams, Dr. Simmons and Rev. Larry Stafford, pastor.

CONFERENCE OFFICE
TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1.888.239.5286

Shreveport Symphony to perform Handel's Messiah at FUMC



The Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dennis Simons, will perform the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah Dec. 18-19 during candlelight concerts at First UMC in Shreveport. Both performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling the Symphony Box Office at (318) 227-TUNE.

Contact Lucy Medvec at (318) 222-7496 for information.

RITF holds workshops in Ekaterinburg

by Rev. Doug Milliron

The work of the Louisiana Conference's Russia Initiative Task Force (RITF) continues in Siberia. Oct. 27-Nov. 8, Rev. Doug Milliron, pastor, Downsville UMC, and Boris Dyakonov, Centenary College student from Russia, traveled 1,000 miles northeast of Moscow to work with the congregational life of FUMC, Ekaterinburg and to see the construction progress on their church.

The new building is going up! Completion is set for May of 1998. The cell groups in the homes, the outreaches in the soup kitchens and the women's prison continue under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Olga Kotsuba.

Doug and Boris led ten two-hour workshops on leadership development and spiritual effectiveness. Over seven days, 62 persons from the congregation and larger Christian community in Ekaterinburg and Nolinsk participated in the workshops. Sessions were held in the church offices located in the UMCOR Youth Shelter, a pre-school ministry of the church. Twenty to twenty-five people attended each session discovering their "motivational gift" for service, and the strength found in humility and practical holiness.

The new legislation on religious liberties



Ministry with the church's children was a special delight. Rev. Doug Milliron, right, gives the sermon while Boris Dyakonov translates his words into Russian.

in Russia signed by Boris Yeltsin on Sept. 26 is slowly being implemented. There is caution mixed with measures of hope. Church leaders and protestant attorneys in Moscow hope that centralized churches, like the Russia United Methodists, actually will be strengthened in their connection by the legislation. More will be known in the coming weeks as guidelines for the legislation are published.

On Jan. 15, 1998, Dr. James Gillespie, chair of the RITF, will return to Russia with Rev. Carolyn Volentine, pastor, Logansport UMC, and Doyle Volentine to continue strengthening the people called Methodists at FUMC, Ekaterinburg.

Conference Program Calendar

December

25 Merry Christmas!

January 1998

1 Happy New Year!
10 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
12-13 Cabinet Meeting
16-17 Happening #11, Conference Center
17 Louisiana Task Force on Prison Ministry, 10:30 a.m., Conference Center
22-25 Cursillo #62, Conference Center
25 UM Women's Sunday

February

6-8 Conference Senior High Retreat, Conference Center
7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
8 VIM Gathering and Banquet, Conference Center, 4-7p.m.
12-13 Cabinet Meeting, Conference Center
13-15 National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, Nashville, TN

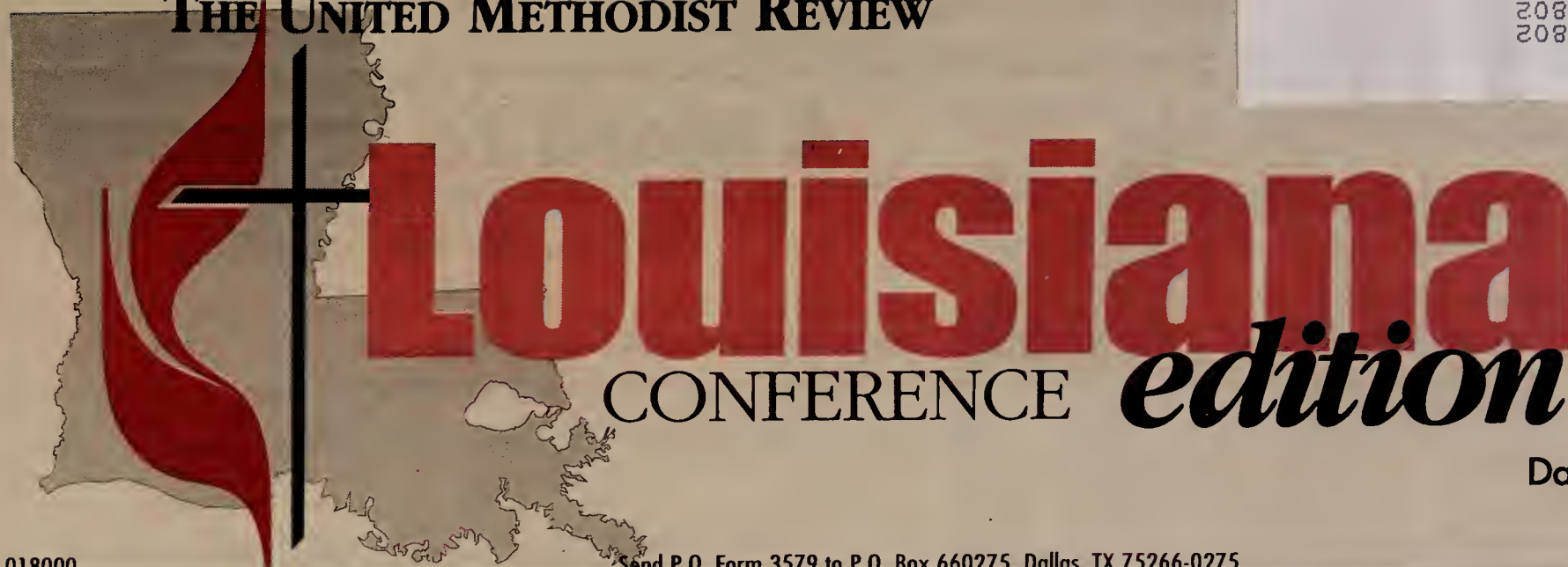
25 Ash Wednesday

March

6-8 Conference Senior High Retreat, Conference Center
2 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Shreveport
3 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Conference Center
4 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, New Orleans
5 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Baton Rouge
7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
9-12 Cabinet Meeting
23-24 Gathering of Elders, Conference Center, Noon-Noon
26-29 Cursillo #63, Conference Center
30-Apr 2 Cabinet Meeting

Let's connect . . .

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Vol 15 No 1 ■ December 26, 1997

United Methodists challenged to act holily, boldly

Urban Convocation urges Gospel action, attitude adjustment

by **Bobbie Armstrong**
LUM Review Editor

During the weekend of Nov. 22-25, downtown San Francisco was electrified with over 1,500 United Methodists, including more than 30 from the Louisiana Conference, preparing to become holy and bold. They gathered from all corners of the U.S. and several foreign countries to take part in the "Holy Boldness Urban Convocation."

"Holy Boldness" is the theme of a revitalized urban ministry movement within The UMC, but it is "more than a program," said Bishop Felton May (Baltimore-Washington Conference) in his opening address, "it is an attitude" rooted in scriptures which challenge United Methodists to move beyond do-goodism and actively address systematic problems. "Holy Boldness is a call for the joining of vocational, technical and service skills with the missional imperatives of Jesus Christ," he said.

The convocation was planned by the General Board of Global Ministries and the National Urban Strategy Council. As president of the GBGM, Louisiana Conference's Bishop Dan Solomon welcomed participants to the event at the opening banquet Saturday night.

A spirit of revival prevailed as participants, many of them from other denominations, took part in workshops, Bible studies, worship and special events highlighting both the practical and theological aspects of urban ministry. Topics of study included youth ministries, evangelism and congregational development, economic development, drug prevention, violence reduction, interfaith relations and work with the homeless.

Speakers included San Francisco Mayor Willie

Brown, a United Methodist; Bishop Kenneth L. Carder of Nashville, Tenn.; Bishop Leontine Kelly, retired; and Rev. Cecil Williams, pastor of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco where two worship services for the convocation were held Sunday morning. Under the leadership of Williams and his wife Janice, Glide has 41 programs which minister effectively to the poor in downtown San Francisco.

Each speaker addressed the need for and the scriptural mandates for the church to offer aid, love and Jesus Christ to those in need, particularly in these times of waning governmental support for the poor.

Entertainment for luncheons and banquets at Holy Boldness provided a rich flavor of diversity beginning with a mini-Chinese parade at the opening banquet. In addition to frequent

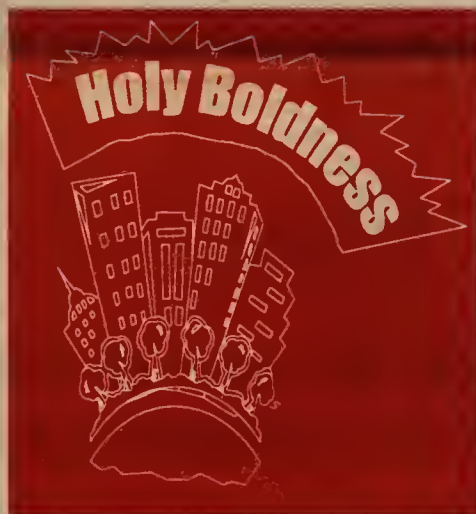
congregational singing, the audience was treated to Andean music; African drums; a convocation choir; Korean, Filipino and Tongan choirs; music on ancient Japanese instruments; and and Australian didgeridoo meditation.

Theological grounding for the Holy Boldness plan, according to its literature, comes from Acts 4 which tells the story of the boldness of the early church: "...the disciples (Peter and John, who were publicly healing people in the name of Jesus after his death) in the midst of danger spoke and acted boldly. They boldly proclaimed the Gospel's message (Acts 4:13-20) and boldly acted in the name of Jesus Christ.

"Being holy and bold is being filled with the Holy Spirit for Gospel action in our cities," the plan declares.

UMNS contributed to this story.

Photos for this story by Bobbie Armstrong



The Louisiana Contingency

Attendees from the Louisiana Conference (some pictured above with Bishop Dan Solomon and his wife Joy -far left) have Shalom Zones in their churches or are committed to starting Shalom Zones. Seventeen Louisiana churches were represented at the Holy Boldness Urban Convocation.

Here's what some attendees had to say about the experience:

"The speakers were dynamic. The high point for me was the Glide worship service."

Rev. Willie Henry, Shady Grove-Jewella-Bonchest (Shreveport Dist.)

"The Holy Boldness Convocation was a great catalyst for neighborhood ministry. I got some valuable information about how to empower our neighborhoods."

Celestine Davis, lay member, Wesley UMC (Baton Rouge Dist.)

"The presence of God's Spirit at Holy Boldness was encouraging and exciting! I feel motivated and energized from the experience."

Rev. Willie Jackson, Jr., Shreveport, Fairfield-Faith (Shreveport Dist.)

"It was energizing to be with so many people united in a common mission. The high point for me was to hear so many giants of The Church advocate for local church involvement."

Dr. Carole Cotton-Winn, District Superintendent (New Orleans Dist.)



Thom White Wolf Fassett (photo left), General Secretary, UMC General Board of Church and Society, told Holy Boldness Urban Convocation worshippers at Glide Memorial Church, "Twenty years ago The United Methodist Church abandoned the cities. We're here to learn how to go back and make United Methodism not incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

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- 3 Restructuring Update
- 4 Banners Enhance Services at Many's



Transition
Mission
Funding
Team meets
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Being and Doing

Mission, Structure and Judicial Council Rulings



The Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church has embarked on a mission-focused initiative which was supported by delegates to the 1997 Annual Conference Session when they overwhelmingly voted structure changes to undergird and facilitate the conference mission.

Recently, the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church made some rulings on structure issues submitted from sources other than the Louisiana Conference, but which have some bearing on the structure adopted by the 1997 Session of the Louisiana Annual Conference.

While the rulings of the Judicial Council will require some additional action by the 1998 Session of the Louisiana Conference, our momentum for mission will continue unabated.

The Conference Mission Team and the District Mission Teams will not be affected by the rulings since the Annual Conference has authority to establish such entities (Par. 607.2). However, as a result of the Judicial Council ruling that "equivalent structures" cannot be established prior to the ratification of the constitutional amendments (which was done by action of the Council of Bishops, November, 1997), the Louisiana Conference must re-confirm its vote on the affected portions of the 1997 Structure Plan. Between January 1, 1998 and the reconfirmation vote of the Annual Conference of 1998, the boards and agencies of the Conference will continue

to exist, even though the substance of their responsibilities will be implemented by the Conference and District Mission Teams.

Another dimension of the Judicial Council ruling relates to "equivalent structures." Prior to the 1998 Annual Conference, the Louisiana Conference structure will be submitted to the Judicial Council for "review." "Review" is a nonjudicial procedure that has been offered by the Judicial Council to assist conferences in designing structures that meet Judicial Council standards.

Upon receipt of the results of the "review," an appropriate task force will prepare any revisions needed to the Louisiana Conference structure and submit such revisions to the 1998 session of the Annual Conference.

Since structure exists to serve the mission of Christ, the Louisiana Conference's passion for mission is in no way affected by the rulings of the Judicial Council. We will take appropriate steps to "fine tune" our structure while at the same time investing our heart and soul in the mission of bringing the Gospel to persons, bringing persons into a redeemed and transformed relationship with Jesus Christ, and bringing the enormous compassion and concern of Louisiana United Methodists into a helpful interaction with the poor, the suffering, and those victimized by injustice.

Dan E. Solomon

A Word to Witness

Choose to Begin

by Dr. Pat Day
Senior Pastor, First UMC, Shreveport

Whatever you want to do in your life, you cannot do it until you begin. One of our biggest problems is inertia. It is extremely difficult to get off high center and start moving. It is much easier to refuse to change or grow. Sadly, many people never experience the joy of achieving or accomplishing anything.

Let me ask you several questions: What is it God has called you to achieve in your life? What goals should you be setting? What dreams have you needed to turn into realities? What plans should you be executing? What projects should you be attempting? What opportunities should you be grabbing? What new ideas should you begin working on? What problems should you be tackling? What decisions should you be making?

These questions cannot be answered unless you choose to begin. Most of us spend a great deal of time rationalizing and making excuses for not starting. Every beginner is a winner! At least he or she has won over inertia, procrastination, and the fear of starting.

Don't wait to begin until you are in the mood. The mood never will seem to be just right. Don't wait to begin until you feel like it. Most of us never feel like cleaning out the garage, or taking out the trash. Learn to control your feelings. Don't wait to begin until you have the time. "I'm just too busy," you might say. But we are never too busy to do what we want to do.

Make the time to begin. Set a starting time and get started. Don't wait until you have all the resources to begin. Many worthwhile projects are never attempted because someone refused to step out with faith and trust in God to meet his or her need. Money and resources flow out of great ideas that are creatively managed.

Stop making excuses for not starting! What is holding you back? From time to time all of us have said, "I'm too young, or too old." "I don't have a good education." "I don't have the resources." "I've been hurt, or defeated, or I have failed in the past."

Don't let anything stop you! Begin! Make it happen! Get started! The longest journey begins with the first step. Remember that the key to success is to get started, and never quit!

God has created you to win in the battles of life, so quit procrastinating, and stop making excuses. Stop worrying about not finishing or not succeeding. You won't finish anything at all unless you first begin!

Reprinted from *Columns*, First UMC, Shreveport.

Editor's note: We welcome your "Words" (pastoral and lay alike) for this column. Please send entries to: Bobbie Armstrong, Editor, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

An INVITATION from UMCOR Sager-Brown: 'Adopt a day' opportunity for local churches

A dramatic increase in the flow of material resources arriving daily at the depot in Baldwin from United Methodist churches, districts, conferences, and individuals throughout the country is prompting us to organize in order to maintain a consistent flow of volunteers.

We now have an urgent need of eight to twelve volunteers every weekday and invite local churches within a reasonable driving distance from Baldwin to "adopt" one day a month to become a part of our volunteer corps in this critical mission of our United Methodist denomination.

We would suggest arriving in Baldwin at 9 a.m. and leaving at 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided at the Sager-Brown dining hall for a modest cost. We will

share some interpretation of our mission program with every group that comes to work at UMCOR Sager-Brown.

At this time, we are preparing shipments which will be going to several countries in Africa, as well as to North Korea, Haiti and Bolivia. Congregations located in Louisiana have an extraordinary opportunity to participate "hands-on" in one of The United Methodist Church's most dramatic mission initiatives.

Call us at (318) 923-2027 for further information or to claim a day for your congregation at UMCOR Sager-Brown. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Bob Osgood
Director

Human Relations Day

We are all God's children.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, . . ." (Matthew 19:14a, NRSV). Just as we seek to follow Christ's teachings in our local communities, your gift today expands our outreach to God's children of all ages. Today persons like Martha de la Rosa, a community developer at Calvary/Casa del Pueblo United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., put Christ's words into action. Through the special offering we share on Human Relations Day,

United Methodists support:

- the work of more than 30 church-based Community Developers in low-income, racial- and ethnic-minority communities;
- an interracial network of grass-roots social-justice organizations;
- local church Youth Offender Rehabilitation projects in Baltimore and San Diego.

Express your heartfelt commitment to the Christian faith.

Give generously on Human Relations Day. It will make a world of difference.

For information on Human Relations Day or to order resources, contact: UM Communications (615) 742-5460.



NAME THAT PAPER

We're still looking for your input about our name, but the search will end soon.

Do you think we should change it to something else instead of *The Louisiana Conference Edition of The United*

Methodist Review?

Got a great idea for a name? Let us know. Write to: Editor, LUM Review, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.



Moments in Mission

Louisiana Conference Volunteers in Mission trips--1998

Come make your own "Moments in Mission." Mark your calendars and call to reserve your spot now for the following Louisiana VIM opportunities:

Mexico* February 2-5 *Fact Finding Mission* Dr. Alonzo Campbell (888)239-5286

This trip includes a tour of Methodist mission sites along the U.S.-Mexico border, a proposed clinic to be built by VIM teams in Rio Bravo, Mexico; the trip will conclude in Monterrey.

Sager-Brown (Baton Rouge District)* March 16-20*Home Construction/Renovation Rev.Chris Blanchard (504) 522-2193

This District Team will focus on the restoration of residences in economically challenged St. Mary Parish. Volunteers are needed for painting, plumbing, electrical, carpentry and general helpers. You do not need to be a clergy or lay person from a church in the Baton Rouge district to participate.

Little Rock Tornado Disaster * March 23-27* Disaster Relief/Home Repair*Rev. Sue Pugh (504) 384-7108

Team work on home repair and restoration will be the focus of this project. Volunteers are needed to paint and perform general home repairs.

Rio Bravo, Mexico *April 20-24* Medical Clinic Construction*Rev. Ralph Ford (318) 981-2088

The work team will function to assist in the construction of a new medical clinic. Volunteers are needed to serve as builders, carpenters, painters, etc. VIM will serve totally as the builders of this clinic as an economically challenged area of Mexico.

Sager-Brown (North Shore District)* April 2-4*Home Construction*Rev. Gene Finnell or Rev. Barry Hughes (504) 892-4694 or (504) 624-622

Baldwin area home repair. Volunteers are needed to perform repairs and painting.

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) *April 19-24* Church Construction* Rev. Robert Ross (504) 356-4459 or (504) 926-5745

The work team will serve to construct a fellowship hall for a church that will be built by VIM teams. Volunteers are needed with carpentry skills, willingness to paint and general helpers.

Nuevo Progreso, Mexico *April 30-May 3* Medical Construction*Rev. Jerry Hilbun (318) 746-5349

Volunteers are needed to share the love of Christ as physicians, nurses, dentists, medical personnel, pharmacists, painters, cooks, van drivers, Spanish translators and general helpers. This is the only means for a huge aggregation of this community's population to receive medical care.

Belize*May 30-June 6*Construction *Rev. Wayne Taylor (318) 477-2191

The work team will labor on renovation of a UM pre-school filled with termites.

Belize* June 6-14* Church Construction* Gordon "Buddy" Frenzel (318) 527-6472

Volunteers are needed to paint and perform renovation via carpentry skills. This trip will also provide a Third World experience among other listed VIM trips.

Paoli, Oklahoma *June 22-28* New Church Construction* Rev. David Carlton (318) 259-9113

Volunteers are invited to join this team as painters, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and general helpers. The pastor of this church is Rev. Jeff Duke who is one our conference clergy members.

Sager-Brown* June 22-26* Home Renovation * Sarah Schoeffler (318) 234-4042

Youth and adults are invited to journey to Baldwin to repair homes in an economically challenged area of Louisiana. Volunteers are needed as painters, carpenters, plumbers and general helpers.

Bennington-White Sands Chapel (OIMC) * June 14-20*Construction*Rev. Joe Hoover (318)894-4767and Rev. Dale Hensarling (318) 949-0430

Volunteers are needed for painting, to perform carpentry, general helpers, cooks and sheet rock hangers. This will be a team of youth and adults.

Heifer Project International* August 9-15*Agriculture* Rev. Mike Hammett (504) 785-6868

Volunteers are needed to perform farm work, office work and light repair. This will be an intergenerational team of youth and adults.

Bolivia* September, 1998* Medical*Rev. Larry Norman (504) 356-4459

Volunteers are needed as physicians, dentists, optometrists, Spanish translators and general helpers. Non-medical personnel are also welcome.

Restructuring Update



Transition Mission Funding Team holds first meeting

Established by the new structure approved at Annual Conference, the Transition Mission Funding Team met recently at the Conference Center for the first time.

The team's purpose is to disburse funds previously committed to specific CCOM ministries during the transition until the year 2000. It is made up of current chairpersons plus two additional representatives from each of the following: Board of Church Extension, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry and the Special Ministries Committee.

Pictured above are Rev. Arnold Brown (left), pastor, Neely UMC, Baton Rouge, secretary of the team and Rev. James Haynes, pastor, St. Mark UMC, Baton Rouge, chair of the team.

The Transition Mission Funding Team will be replaced with a permanent Mission Funding Team at the Annual Conference of 2000.

Living into restructure

The question has come up about Conference Office staff: Who's doing what?

We will attempt to answer that question and other restructuring issues in the coming months. Beginning in January, the *LUM Review* will feature ongoing updates about the Conference's new structure.

We are living the restructure as we go and that has meant a reduction and reorganization of staff positions in order to continue to fulfill our mission. For example, Rev. Linda Fox, former director of Christian Education, retired in August and now lives in Hot Springs, Ark, with her husband Jim. Her responsibilities are being assumed by the District Ministry Teams. What was formerly a part-time Director of Resource position has become a full-time Mission Resourcing position fulfilled by Dr. Rena Yocom (see Dec. 12 edition of the Review) on a consulting basis. The full-time youth director position formerly occupied by Carolyn Ross (who returned to teaching school) is now filled by Carolyn Dove part-time.

The plan for the Conference restructuring is outlined in a booklet entitled, "Design for a New Day," which was issued at Annual Conference. Every church delegate received a copy at that time.

Stay tuned; we'll keep you posted as we go.

Don't forget!

Volunteers in Mission Banquet

Sunday, February 8, 1998 ♦ Conference Center ♦ 4 to 7 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Bishop Dan E. Solomon ♦ Reservations required
Call 1.888.239-5286 (Janice Johnson), Ext. 226, for reservations.
E-mail: laumc@premier.net

United Methodist Women celebrate UMW Sunday

Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women will celebrate UMW Sunday, January 25, 1998, and on a variety of Sundays throughout the Louisiana Conference during the first quarter of the year. The 1998 theme, "Thy word is a Lamp," is an invitation to membership in a vital and energetic organization of women whose main interest is the betterment of life and opportunities for women, children and youth.

UMW has been in existence for over 100 years. Today, there are one million plus members in over 25,000 local units in the United States.

In Louisiana, UMW Sunday is a unique celebration made special with the purchase and wearing of UMW ribbons. Ribbons can be purchased by contacting district UMW treasurers. The ribbons, embossed with the UMW logo and theme, are collectors items, and serve as an invitation to membership. New members are invited to join their local church unit, charge group, or to become a district member.

Membership in United Methodist Women offers participation in and with a unique community of women focused on worldwide mission for women and children, and encourages the development and use of leadership skills. The national membership

campaign goal is to recruit one million women during a six-year campaign from 1996-2002.

"The National theme, 'Yes! Count me in,' challenges members to share their enthusiasm for our organization's local and world-wide work with women, children and youth," says Brenda Canty, Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women, Mission Coordinator of Membership Nurture and Outreach. Louisiana will concentrate special emphasis on teen women, college/university women, young women, newly-retired women and women of various racial, cultural and language groups.

Make 1998 the year you become a member of United Methodist Women, an organization grounded in historic mission work.

Upcoming UMW Events:

Assembly, 1998—Thurs., May 13-Sunday, May 17, Orlando, Fla. Theme: "Make Plain the Vision."

Third Annual Children's School of Christian Mission—July 15-18, Centenary College, Shreveport. Theme: "God's Word: Changing Life at the Crossroads."



AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

Let's connect . . .

Send us your news (typed copy please) and photos (color okay) to:

Bobbie Armstrong
Editor
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

First Deacon Retreat held

by Rev. Barbara Einsel
First UMC, Houma

The first Deacon Retreat in the Louisiana Conference was held at the Conference Center November 6-7. Eight of the nine deacons ordained at Annual Conference in Shreveport this past June were in attendance. They were: Micky Cloud, Barbara Einsel, Joaquin Garcia, John Edd Harper, Sue Kelley, Sidney Montequido, Lusinda Warren and Regina Wren.

Rev. Micky Cloud, Convener of the Deacons, led the group in an informal session to get acquainted with one another beyond our professional roles. Rev. Joaquin Garcia and Dr. John Winn rendered leadership to the group as they explored together the role of deacons and the shaping of the new Order of Deacons. In addition to striving to build a support system for one another, it was agreed that

bonding as deacons be continued in the areas of spiritual growth, mission service and sabbath rest.

The group decided to hold two retreats a year for differing purposes as the Order of Deacons takes formation in this quadrennium. The date for their next retreat at the Conference Center is Feb. 9-10.

History has been made as the Order has been formed. We in the first Class of Deacons take our responsibilities seriously, for we have been a long time on our journeys to this point in our ministries. The fulfillment of ordination has changed our lives. We are now feeling and fulfilling our calls in new ways. We look forward to our Order growing in numbers each year and accept the challenge to journey together in support, caring and Christian love for one another as deacons.

Asbury singles hold 'Shadow' retreat

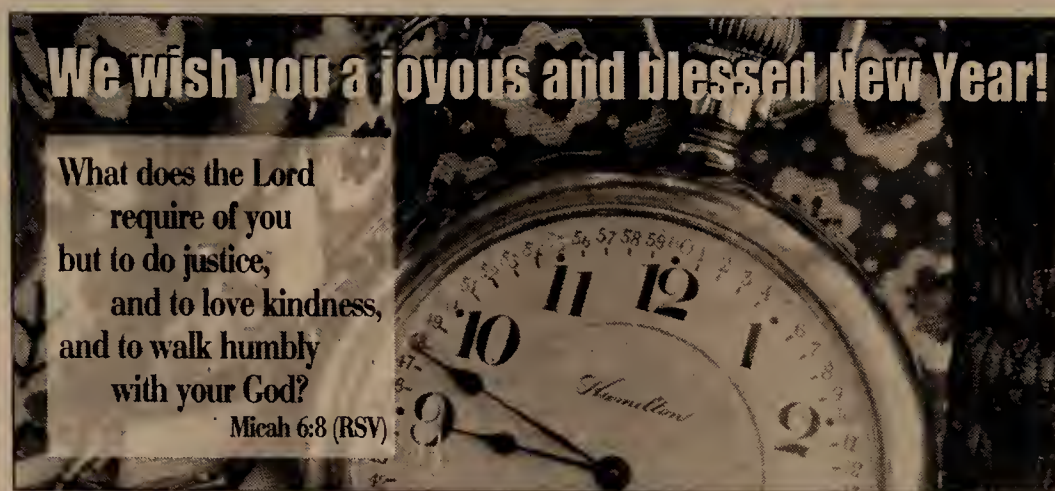
by Rev. Scott Bullock
Asbury UMC, Lafayette

"The Shadow Knows!" might best be remembered as a trademark quip from a 20's radio show, but it actually doubles as a very accurate spiritual truth. This was the experience of those single adults from Asbury UMC, Lafayette, who gathered Nov. 21-23 for "Me and My Shadow," a retreat whose focus was an exploration of "hidden" aspects of our personality and spirituality.

The three veteran workshop leaders for the retreat (all Shreveport residents), Father Murray Clayton, Mickie Cowan and Margaret Glenn, helped participants

understand their "shadow" selves through personality typing and dream work. Both presenters and attendees agree that an awareness of this aspect of ourselves can offer a rich and vital opportunity for growth and wholeness with God and others.

With the assistance of Michelle Escuriex, retreats coordinator for Asbury's Singles Ministry and Rev. Scott Bullock, associate pastor at Asbury, this retreat built upon previous similar events. These retreats also mark a shift within Asbury's Singles Ministry away from larger yearly "Singles Conferences" featuring nationally known speakers toward a variety of retreats offered throughout the year.



Banners enhance worship season at Many's First UMC

by Donna Smith Ammons

Seven years ago, Moorene Shotton (pictured below left with Anne Dunbar and Suzanne Ammons), a member of the First United Methodist Church of Many decided that banners would enhance the weekly worship service.

She designed a banner and began stitching...and soon the congregation was enjoying her talents as a seamstress.

The idea of stitching banners came one morning when she and friend, Anne Dunbar, another church member were walking.

"The idea formed on that walk and before we knew it we were busy," Mrs. Shotton said.

The ladies are still combining their efforts and have been joined by several other church members.

The Methodist Church now has 35 banners, which are changed out on a regular basis.

"We have banners that represent every season of the church year," the Rev. Hulen

Warren, church pastor, said.

Mrs. Shotton, a retired fifth grade school teacher and her husband, Ernie, a retired principal and basketball coach, retired to the Toledo Bend Lake area in 1984 from Jal, New Mexico. The couple has become active in church and community activities.

In November Mrs. Shotton and her helpers began stitching new banners for the Advent season. They made eight new 24" x 24" banners that are now hanging under all of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Each window is accented with the banner and candle.

The new banners feature silhouettes of Christian symbols including a dove, angel, star, manger, Christmas rose, crown of thorns, candles and trumpets. The colors of deep purple and off white are used with this group of banners.

Making the banners has become Mrs. Shotton's ministry.

"I have a proud feeling when I see the banners hanging in the church," she shared.



Louisiana Conference Edition
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Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

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On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at

<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

DEADLINE FOR:

January 9 Issue -- December 29

Conference Program Calendar

January 1998

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 10 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 12-13 Cabinet Meeting
- 16-17 Happening #11, Conference Center
- 17 Louisiana Task Force on Prison Ministry, 10:30 a.m., Conference Center
- 29-Feb. 1 Cursillo #62, Conference Center
- 25 UM Women's Sunday

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- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
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- 12-13 Cabinet Meeting, Conference Center
- 13-15 National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, Nashville, TN

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- 4 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, New Orleans
- 5 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Baton Rouge
- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 9-12 Cabinet Meeting
- 10-11 Town and Country 10th Annual Spring Retreat, Louisiana Conference Center
- 23-24 Gathering of Elders, Conference Center, Noon-Noon
- 26-29 Cursillo #63, Conference Center
- 30-Apr 2 Cabinet Meeting



Parish Paper available

The Parish Paper is available free for your use by contacting Bobbie Armstrong at the Conference Office at (888) 239-5286, ext. 227.

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TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1.888.239.5286